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THE FRENCH CONNECTION



Hollande opens unusual state visit to America

President Barack Obama and French President Francois Hollande walk across the tarmac as they prepare to board Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Monday, Feb. 10, 2014. Together the two leaders toured Monticello, President Thomas Jefferson's estate in Charlottesville, Va.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Virginia (AP) — A suddenly single French President Francois Hollande arrived in the U.S.

on Monday, joining with President Barack Obama for a tour of a picturesque estate built by a famed

Francophile.

The trip to Thomas Jefferson's Monticello marks the start of a state visit de-

signed to showcase enduring U.S. ties with its oldest ally France, rather than the lack of a first lady accom-

panying Hollande on a formal occasion.

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US First lady praises construction hiring of vets

DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michelle Obama says a construction industry pledge to hire 100,000 veterans by 2019 isn't only the right and patriotic thing to do, it's also a smart thing for business. The commitments by 100 companies and associations in construction were being announced Monday at a conference sponsored by the Labor Department and the initiative Joining Forces, a nationwide effort launched by Mrs. Obama and Jill Biden, the wife of Vice President Joe Biden, to rally the U.S. around military veterans, active duty service members and their families.

Nearly 400,000 veterans and their spouses have been hired under the initiative since it began in 2011, said Mrs. Obama, who was joining Labor Secretary Thomas Perez for the announcement.

"By hiring veterans, businesses won't just be giving American heroes the chances they deserve to keep serving our country," the first lady wrote in an opinion piece in The Wall Street Journal on Monday. "And the companies won't just be giving veterans' families the security that comes with a steady paycheck."

"These businesses will also be ensuring that they have the qualified employees

they need to keep growing and creating new jobs and strengthening the economy for decades to come," she said. Since Joining Forces began, companies with household names from Disney and Starbucks to UPS and Walmart have pledged to hire thousands of veterans. But Monday's announcement is significant because it is the first time an entire industry has pledged to make sure that giving jobs to veterans "is always part of the mix and is really ingrained in the DNA of the business model," Perez said in an interview. Unemployment among the post-Sept. 11, 2001 generation of veterans, those returning from

Iraq and Afghanistan, has been steadily declining during the past two years and stood at 7.9 percent in January, versus an overall unemployment rate of 6.6 percent.

Nearly 180,000 construction jobs were created in the past year, Perez said, and about 1.5 million such jobs are forecast to be added through 2022. Average wages are about \$20 an hour, not including benefits, he said.

The industry's announcement is also timely because of the coming end, later this year, of the U.S. combat role in Afghanistan, Perez said. Thousands of returning troops will be looking for jobs. □



First lady Michelle Obama speaks at a National Symposium on Veterans' Employment in Construction, hosted by the Labor Department, Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, in Washington. Mrs. Obama said a construction industry pledge to hire 100,000 veterans by 2019 isn't only the right and patriotic thing to do, but also a smart thing for business. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

US Embassy warns of possible Guyana threat

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — The U.S. Embassy in Guyana warned Sunday that it had received "unconfirmed threat information" about a regional airline's flights from the South American country to the United States on Monday and urged Americans to avoid using the carrier. The terse message about flights of Caribbean Airlines was unusual for being so specific about a potential threat, although it gave no details on the threat.

The warning was posted Sunday on the embassy's website.

It advised all U.S. citizens in Guyana to make alternate travel arrangements through Wednesday if they were planning on traveling home on flights with Caribbean Airlines.

The airline's representative for Guyana, Carl Stuart, said the company has elevated "our level of security involving the police, the military and other agencies."

"We have been on this since Friday," he told The Associated Press. "We are on top of this and flights will continue as normal, but we are taking no chances." Cheddi Jagan International Airport issued a statement saying that after being informed of the possible threat, it and the government's Public Works Ministry called a meeting involving security agencies and others to assess the situation. Authorities "adopted the highest security pos-

ture to protect passengers, crew, aircraft and airport employees and to ensure the continued smooth and safe operations at the airport," the statement said. In 2007, a former member of Guyana's parliament and a naturalized U.S. citizen from Guyana were among four people convicted of participating in a failed plot by a small group of militant Muslims to firebomb John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. □

Zuckerberg of Facebook 2013 biggest giver

DONNA BLANKINSHIP
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, were the most generous American philanthropists in 2013, with a donation of 18 million shares of Facebook stock valued at more than \$970 million to a Silicon Valley nonprofit. The Chronicle of Philanthropy reported Monday that Zuckerberg's donation was the largest charitable gift on the public record in 2013 and put the young couple at the top of the magazine's list of 50 most generous Americans in 2013.

The top 50 contributors made donations last year totaling \$7.7 billion, plus pledges of \$2.9 billion.

The Chronicle's editor says the most significant fact from the list was the amount of money coming from living donors.

"It's a sure sign that the economy is getting better and people are getting a lot less cautious," said Stacy Palmer, Chronicle editor. Some of the nation's biggest givers do not appear on the 2013 list, not because they stopped being generous, but because their donations in 2013 were counted as pledges in previous years.

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and his wife, Melinda, gave their foundation slightly more than \$181.3 million last year, but they were paying off a pledge of about \$3.3 billion they made in 2004. CNN-founder Ted Turner and Berkshire Hathaway chairman Warren Buffett also made large gifts toward previous pledges.

It took gifts totaling at least \$37.5 million to make the list this year. Forty-two of the top 50 made gifts of \$50 million or more.

Thirty made big gifts to colleges and universities, but Palmer noted most college gifts went to science and research this year, not to buildings, as in previous years.

Ten of the 50 made the list because of bequests after their deaths, including the second biggest giver in 2013, George Mitchell, a Galveston, Texas, man who made his fortune in energy and real estate. □

Mexico probes disappearance of American man

GUSTAVO RUIZ
Associated Press

MORELIA, Mexico (AP) — Police are investigating the disappearance of a U.S. man traveling across Latin America by motorcycle who went missing after visiting a friend in Mexico's western state of Michoacan, where rural vigilantes are battling a cult-like drug cartel, authorities said Monday.

Officials began investigating Harry Devert's disappearance Wednesday, when a Mexican friend reported him missing, said Magdalena Guzman Rosas, a spokeswoman for Michoacan state prosecutors.

Guzman said Devert arrived at the friend's home in Zitacuaro on Jan. 22 and spent three days there. The friend told investigators that Devert left on Jan. 25, saying he was headed to the Pacific resort city of Zihuatanejo.

Devert's girlfriend called his Mexican friend two days later to say she was worried because he hadn't been in touch. The friend then went to the city of Uruapan, also in Michoacan state, to check a report of a man who had been in an accident and was in a coma. He went to police when he realized the man at a Uruapan hospital wasn't Devert, Guzman said.

Devert, 32, of Pelham, New York, wrote earlier about the planned trip on his blog, "A New Yorker Travels," saying he hoped to go to Brazil for the World Cup.

Devert's mother, Ann Devert, said she last heard from him on Jan. 25 when he sent a text message saying he was getting a military escort out of an area deemed dangerous by the U.S. State Department. The same message said, "I'm running way late because of all the crazy military stuff."

Ann Devert said her son texted that he would call her later that night, when he hoped to arrive to his destination. □

Hollande opens unusual state visit to America

Continued from front

Obama and Hollande greeted each other at the steps of Air Force One, then boarded the plane for the short trip from Washington

secret tryst with a French actress. The last-minute change of plans created a tricky situation for American officials planning a high-profile event where diplomatic protocol and

and former president, was also an early U.S. envoy to France and is honored with a statue on Paris' Seine River. Monday marks the first time a sitting president has visited Monticello with

in announcing the visit. In public appearances during the state visit, Obama and Hollande are expected to focus on areas where U.S.-French priorities are visibly in sync,



President Barack Obama, right, and French President Francois Hollande, center, tour the grounds of Monticello, President Thomas Jefferson's estate, Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, in Charlottesville, Va. Leading the tour is Leslie Bowman, far left, President, Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

to Charlottesville, Virginia. The French president is traveling in the U.S. without a female companion, following his very public split with longtime partner Valerie Trierweiler. Their breakup has dominated headlines following a gossip magazine's revelations about a

etiquette are in the spotlight. Still, Hollande was receiving a warm welcome reserved only for America's closest allies. His visit with Obama to Monticello was aimed at highlighting the long-standing ties between the U.S. and France. Jefferson, a Founding Father

a current foreign head of state. "Monticello reflects Jefferson's affection for the people of France, the long-standing relations between our two democracies, and the shared values we hold dear: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," the White House said

such as in efforts to resolve nuclear concerns in Iran, a civil war in Syria and extremism in Africa. Mutual interests such as combating climate change and securing a trade deal between the U.S. and Europe will also be messages the two will seek to highlight. □

Boston bombing suspect wants trial next year

BOSTON (AP) — The trial of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is expected to last three months, plus another six weeks if he is convicted and jurors have to decide whether he should be put to death, prosecutors said Monday.

The trial estimate was included in a joint status report filed in court Monday by federal prosecutors and Tsarnaev's lawyers ahead of a Wednesday hearing.

In the report, defense lawyers say they want a trial date no earlier than September 2015. Prosecutors did not include a request for a trial date, but they said during a court hearing in November that they hoped to have the trial this fall. Tsarnaev, 20, has pleaded not guilty in the attack last April that killed three people and wounded more than 260 others. Authorities say he and his older brother, Tamerlan,

built and planted two pressure cooker bombs near the marathon finish line. Tamerlan Tsarnaev died following a shootout with police during an escape attempt four days after the marathon. The report says Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's lawyers have not yet had an opportunity to review numerous pieces of physical evidence, including nearly 2,000 items that are still being analyzed by the FBI and items kept at ad-

ditional locations. The defense proposed a schedule for filing certain requests, including: motions to suppress evidence, by July 28; motions challenging the death penalty, by Nov. 17; and a motion to change the location of the trial, by Jan. 19. Prosecutors asked for earlier deadlines for those motions. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder authorized prosecutors to seek the death penalty against Tsarnaev last month. □

In State of the City, de Blasio focuses on income inequality



New York Mayor Bill de Blasio waves as he arrives to give his first State of the City speech at La Guardia Community College in New York, Feb. 10, 2014. De Blasio spoke about the minimum wage and vowed to reach out to immigrants, leaving no doubt that he was going to pursue a liberal agenda.

(Richard Perry/The New York Times)

MARC SANTORA

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NEW YORK - Mayor Bill de Blasio, who won a sweeping victory in November promising to address the city's deep economic inequalities, used his first State of the City speech Monday to propose measures that he said would protect the poor raise the minimum wage to help lift residents into the middle class. At the same time, he repeated his call for the city's wealthiest residents to pay more to help the less fortunate.

"We're fighting to give everyone a fair shot, so that city government doesn't set its priorities by the needs of those at the very top while ignoring the struggle of those born under a less lucky star," he said.

"In past decades, working people built our city, and for their hard work they were rewarded - not always with great wealth, but with a fundamental assurance, the knowledge that hard work could pull them from modest means into a growing middle class," he said. "Today, that assurance is missing, that sense of economic justice is gone. And that is what we aim to address."

In one instance presented Monday, the mayor waded into the national debate over the minimum wage, calling for Albany to

allow New York City to set its own minimum wage.

"In the process, we will send a powerful signal to the people of New York - that we honor work," he said. "We are committed to making work pay."

De Blasio's proposal faces an uncertain fate in Albany, where Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and lawmakers reached a deal last year to raise the state's minimum wage to \$9 by the end of 2015.

Republicans, who have partial control of the state Senate, agreed to the increase only reluctantly, and they have not expressed any interest in allowing New York City to set a minimum wage higher than what was specified in last year's agreement.

"We have no plans to revisit that law," a spokesman for the Senate Republicans, Scott Reif, said Monday.

De Blasio pressed again for a higher tax on New Yorkers who make more than \$500,000 annually in order to pay for universal prekindergarten for all children in the city.

"We're not asking Albany to raise the state income tax by a penny to pay for universal pre-K and after-school programs here in New York City," he said. "We're simply asking Albany to allow New York City to tax itself - its wealthiest residents." □

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Let us create a memory to never forget on Valentine's day

Let us invite you to enjoy a master chef at the top of his craft

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S O L A R I O

San Valentine 3 Course Menu

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Mexican gets 30 years over 'Fast and Furious' border agent death

ASTRID GALVAN

Associated Press

TUCSCON, Arizona (AP) —

A Mexican man convicted in the shooting death of a federal Border Patrol agent during a firefight that revealed the government's botched gun-smuggling investigation known as Operation Fast and Furious was sentenced Monday to 30 years in prison.

Manuel Osorio-Arellanes, who is from El Fuerte in the Mexican state of Sinaloa, is the only person to be convicted in the Dec. 14, 2010, shooting death of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry near the Arizona-Mexico

border.

U.S. District Court judge David C. Bury handed down the sentence, 360 months with credit for time served. The shootout erupted just north of the Arizona border city of Nogales as Osorio-Arellanes and four other men who are accused of sneaking into the country to rob marijuana smugglers approached Terry and three other agents who were targeting such rip-off crews.

Osorio-Arellanes was wounded in the shootout and was the only person arrested at the scene. □

Prosecutors rest in trial of US man who shot teen

DEREK KINNER
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP) — Prosecutors rested their case Monday in the widely watched trial of a Florida man charged with the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teen after an argument over loud music outside a convenience store.

Prosecutors called an associate medical examiner as their last witness in direct testimony, a week after jury selection began in the first-degree murder trial of Michael Dunn. Dunn is charged with first-degree murder. He is pleading not guilty and says he acted in self-defense when he fatally shot Jordan Davis, 17, of Georgia, outside the store in Jacksonville in 2012.

According to authorities, an argument began after Dunn, in a neighboring car, told Davis and his friends to turn the music down they were listening to in a sport utility vehicle outside the convenience store. One of Davis' friends turned the music down, but Davis then told him to turn it back up. Officials say Dunn, who is white, became enraged and he and Davis, who was black, began arguing. Dunn, who had a concealed weapons permit, pulled a 9 mm handgun from the glove compartment, according to an affidavit, and fired nine shots into the SUV.

The case echoes a sensational trial that happened in the same region of Florida last year. George Zimmerman fatally shot Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teen, in Sanford in 2012. Zimmerman, a Hispanic, claimed self-defense under Florida's so-called stand-your-ground law, which protects gun owners. He was acquitted of second-degree murder in July 2013.

On Monday, an associate medical examiner, Stacey Simons, testified Monday that the first bullet that hit Davis in the abdomen likely killed him. The bullet went from his lower right abdomen, into his diaphragm, through his liver and hit his

aorta, she said.

Under cross-examination, Simons said it was unlikely Davis was standing up when he was shot. Dunn's defense attorney, Cory Strolla, had argued in opening statements that Davis had threatened Dunn with

a knife. Simons said the bullet appeared to have struck something hard, like a car door, before hitting Davis.

Sukhan Warf, a Florida Department of Law Enforcement analyst, also said toxicology tests on Davis

showed no signs of drugs or alcohol in his body. No gun was found in the SUV.

Maria Pagan, another state analyst, testified earlier in the day about the steps Dunn took before shooting the teen. Her testimony bolstered the contention from

prosecutors that Michael Dunn acted with premeditation when he fatally shot Davis.

Dunn would have had to remove the gun from its holster, load the chamber with a bullet and then apply six pounds of pressure to fire it, Pagan said.

Dunn fired the gun 10 times, hitting the SUV nine times, and he would have had to pull the trigger every time using more than six pounds of pressure each time, Pagan said.

Pagan answered affirmatively when prosecutor Angela Corey asked, "Does that take a conscious effort of the shooter to have a second-round come out?" The first witness to testify for the defense was Randy Berry, a friend of Dunn. He said he never knew Dunn to be violent.

Berry's wife, Beverly Berry, also testified that she had never seen Dunn with anything but a calm demeanor.

Dunn had been at his son's wedding before the shooting. Dunn's ex-wife, Phyllis Molinaro, and son, Chris Dunn, told jurors that Dunn didn't appear drunk and was in good spirits at the wedding. □



Florida Department of Law Enforcement firearms analyst Marie Pagan pulls back the slide of Michael Dunn's 9mm pistol during trial in Jacksonville, Fla., Monday, Feb. 10, 2014. The prosecution has rested in the trial of a Dunn charged with killing a teen following an argument over loud music outside a Jacksonville convenience store in 2012.

(AP Photo/Bob Mack)

Senator seeks records on military sex crimes

RICHARD LARDNER
YURI KAGEYAMA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon is coming under pressure to give Congress detailed information on the handling of sex crime cases in the armed forces following an Associated Press investigation that found a pattern of inconsistent judgments and light penalties for sexual assaults at U.S. bases in Japan.

Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, who's led efforts in Congress to address military sexual crimes, is pressing the Defense Department to turn over case information from four major U.S. bases: Fort Hood in Texas, Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia, the Marine Corps'

Camp Pendleton in California, and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

Such records would shed

and punishments in sexual assault cases and whether the inconsistent judgments seen in Japan are more

internal military documents it first began requesting in 2009, found that what appeared to be strong cases were often reduced to lesser charges. Suspects were unlikely to serve time even when military authorities agreed a crime had been committed. In two rape cases, commanders overruled recommendations to court-martial and dropped the charges instead.

Gillibrand, who leads the Senate Armed Services personnel panel, wrote Monday to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel asking for "all reports and allegations of rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault, sex in the barracks, adultery and attempts, conspiracies or solicitations to commit these crimes," for the last five years. □



Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., during an interview with The Associated Press in her Capitol Hill office in Washington.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

more light on how military commanders make decisions about court martials

widespread.

AP's investigation, which was based on hundreds of

Caffeine common in US kids, youths; mainly soda



Megan Ward, left, drinks an energy drink with her friend Mykel Prescott from Parker, Colo., at Ward's home in Castle Rock, Colo. The journal Pediatrics published online Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, results of research into trends in the caffeine intake among children and young adults.

(AP Photo/Jack Dempsey)

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Nearly 3 out of 4 U.S. children and young adults consume at least some caffeine, mostly from soda, tea and coffee. The rate didn't budge much over a decade, although soda use declined and energy drinks became

an increasingly common source, a government analysis finds. Although even most preschoolers consume some caffeine-containing products, their average was the amount found in half a can of soda, and overall caffeine intake declined in children up to age 11 during the decade.

The analysis is the first to examine recent national trends in caffeine intake among children and young adults and comes amid a U.S. Food and Drug Administration investigation into the safety of caffeine-containing foods and drinks, especially for children and

teens. In an online announcement about the investigation, the FDA notes that caffeine is found in a variety of foods, gum and even some jelly beans and marshmallows. The probe is partly in response to reports about hospitalizations and even several deaths after consuming highly caffeinated drinks or energy shots. The drinks have not been proven to be a cause in those cases. The new analysis, by researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shows that at least through 2010, energy drinks were an uncommon source of caffeine for most U.S. youth.

The results were published online Monday in the journal Pediatrics.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends against caffeine consumption for children and teens because of potentially harmful effects from the mild stimulant, including increases in heart rate and blood pressure, and worsening anxiety in those with anxiety disorders.

Dr. Stephen Daniels, chairman of the academy's nutrition committee, said caffeine has no nutritional value and there's no good data on what might be a safe amount for kids.

Evidence that even very young children may regularly consume caffeine products raises concerns about possible long-term health effects, so parents should try to limit their kids' intake, said Daniels, head of pediatrics at the University of Colorado's medical school. Soda was the most common source of caffeine throughout the study for older children and teens; for those up to age 5, it was the second most common after tea. Soda intake declined for all ages as many schools stopped selling sugary soft drinks because of obesity concerns. The American Beverage Association, whose members include makers of soft drinks and energy drinks, maintains that caffeine has been safely added to drinks as a flavor enhancer for more than 100 years. □

Big Cheese: Kraft Singles to lose artificial preservatives

CANDICE CHOI
AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kraft is removing artificial preservatives from its most popular individually wrapped cheese slices, in the latest sign that companies are tweaking recipes as food labels come under greater scrutiny. The change affects the company's Kraft Singles in the full-fat American and White American varieties, which Kraft says account for the majority of the brand's sales. Sorbic acid is being replaced by natamycin, which Kraft says is a "natural mold inhibitor." Kraft's decision comes as a growing number of Americans pay closer attention to what they eat and try to stick to foods they feel are natural. That has prompted a number of food makers to change their recipes. Last week, for instance, Subway said it was removing a chemical from its

bread after a popular food blogger named Vani Hari started a petition noting the ingredient is also used in yoga mats. The ingredient, azodicarbonamide, is an approved food additive and can be found in a wide variety of products, including those sold by McDonald's and Starbucks. But Hari said she targeted Subway because of its healthy food image. Even though such ingredients are approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration, being able to tout a product as being free of them can be a selling point. Kraft, for example, plans to begin airing TV ads near the end of February touting that its Kraft Singles cheese "begins with milk" and are now "made with no artificial preservatives." The ads show cartoon cows grazing in a pasture, with a milk truck driving past. The new Kraft packages,

which began appearing on supermarket shelves in recent weeks, also come stamped with a red circle

noting they have no artificial preservatives or flavors. Kraft says its cheese slices haven't used artificial fla-

vors for many years, but that it just recently decided to advertise that aspect of the product. □



Packages of Kraft Singles are displayed in Chicago. Kraft is removing artificial preservatives from its most popular individually wrapped cheese slices, in the latest sign that companies are tweaking recipes as food labels come under greater scrutiny.

(AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)



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Commercial pilots often fly to wrong airports, US reports

JOAN LOWY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On at least 150 flights, U.S. commercial air carriers have either landed at the wrong airport or started to land and realized their mistake in time, according to a search by The Associated Press of government safety databases and media reports since the early 1990s.

A particular trouble spot is San Jose, California. The list of landing mistakes includes six reports of pilots preparing to land at Moffett Field, a joint civilian-military airport, when they meant to go to Mineta San Jose International Airport, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) to the southeast. The airports are south of San Francisco in California's Silicon Valley.

"This event occurs several times every winter in bad weather when we work on Runway 12," a San Jose airport tower controller said in a November 2012 report describing how an airliner headed for Moffett after being cleared to land at San Jose. A controller at a different facility who noticed the impending landing on radar warned his colleagues with a telephone hotline that piped his voice directly into the San Jose tower's loudspeakers. The plane was waved off in time.

In nearly all the incidents, the pilots were cleared by controllers to guide the

plane based on what they could see rather than relying on automation. Many incidents occur at night, with pilots reporting they were attracted by the runway lights of the first airport they saw during descent. Some pilots said they disregarded navigation equipment that showed their

Barr, a former Air Force pilot who teaches aviation safety at the University of Southern California.

Using NASA's Aviation Safety Reporting System, along with news accounts and reports sent to other federal agencies, the AP tallied 35 landings and 115 approaches or aborted

many near-landings, but those reports aren't publicly available. FAA officials turned down a request by The Associated Press for access to those records, saying some may include information on possible violations of safety regulations by pilots and might be used in an enforcement action.

are being entered even though the volume of reports has soared, she said. The accounts that are available paint a picture of repeated close calls, especially in parts of the country where airports are situated close together with runways similarly angled, including Nashville and Smyrna in Tennessee, Tucson and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona, and several airports in South Florida. In a report filed last July, for example, an airline captain described how his MD-80 was lined up to land at what he thought was San Antonio International Airport when a rider in the cockpit's jump seat "shouted out that we were headed for Lackland Air Force Base." The first officer, who was flying the plane, quickly aborted the landing and circled around to line up for the correct airport. The captain later thanked the cockpit passenger and phoned the San Antonio tower. "They did not seem too concerned," he reported, "and said this happens rather frequently there."

Continental Airlines' regional carriers flying from Houston to Lake Charles Regional Airport on the Louisiana Gulf Coast have at least three times mistakenly landed at the smaller, nearby Southland Executive field. Both airports have runways painted with the numbers 15 and 33 to reflect their compass headings. □



Southwest Airlines Flight 4013 sits at the M. Graham Clark Downtown Airport in Hollister, Mo. On nearly 150 flights, U.S. commercial air carriers have either landed at the wrong airport or started to land and realized their mistake in time, according to a search by The Associated Press of government safety databases and media reports since the early 1990s.

(AP Photo/Valerie Mosley)

planes slightly off course because the information didn't match what they were seeing out their windows — a runway straight ahead.

"You've got these runway lights, and you are looking at them, and they're saying: 'Come to me, come to me. I will let you land.' They're like the sirens of the ocean," said Michael

landing attempts at wrong airports by commercial passenger and cargo planes over more than two decades.

The tally doesn't include every event. Many aren't disclosed to the media, and reports to the NASA database are voluntary. The Federal Aviation Administration investigates wrong airport landings and

NASA, on the other hand, scrubs its reports of identifying information to protect confidentiality, including names of pilots, controllers and airlines. While the database is operated by the space agency, it is paid for by the FAA and its budget has been frozen since 1997, said database director Linda Connell. As a result, fewer incident reports

Internet gambling an industry wildcard

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Many experts believe online wagering is the future of gambling, but the casino industry is increasingly divided on the issue.

The latest evidence of the split came Monday as the Coalition to Stop Internet Gambling launched the first commercial in a six-figure campaign warning of the dangers of legalized Internet gambling. The coalition is emphasizing the possibility that criminals and terrorists may use online gambling to launder money.

The group has support from casino mogul Sheldon

Adelson, CEO of Las Vegas Sands. Adelson is the 11th-richest American, according to Forbes.

Adelson has said he is willing to spend "whatever it takes" to stop the spread of Internet wagering. Meanwhile, the casino lobby has made the legalization and regulation of online gambling its signature issue for the year. Major members including Caesars Entertainment Corp. and MGM Resorts International are taking steps to get into the market. Proponents formed their own group, the Coalition for Consumer and Online Protection, which is expected to launch its own six-figure ad campaign targeting Washington, D.C., decision makers.

"The coalition will operate exclusively at the federal level — encouraging Congress to embrace regulation as the best means to protect minors, detect money launderers and eliminate a dangerous black market," American Gaming Association President Geoff Freeman said in an email to his board last week.

At least three congressional bills related to online gambling have been introduced this year.

Two lawmakers introduced bills over the summer that would legalize some form of Internet gambling nationwide. This fall, Rep. Jim McDermott introduced a bill that would tax federally sanctioned online wagering.

Gamblers wanting to make wagers from the privacy of their homes have had few options in recent years. The federal government cracked down definitively on Internet gambling in 2011. But the same year, the U.S. Justice Department issued a ruling mak-



This artist rendering released by Caesars Entertainment Corp. shows what Caesars says it plans to replace the former Las Vegas' shuttered Bill's Gamblin' Hall & Saloon with, a swanky 188-room hotel renamed the Cromwell. Many experts believe online wagering is the future of gambling, but the casino industry is increasingly divided on the issue.

(AP Photo/Caesars Entertainment Corp.)

Adelson, CEO of Las Vegas Sands. Adelson is the 11th-richest American, according to Forbes.

Adelson has said he is willing to spend "whatever it takes" to stop the spread of Internet wagering.

Meanwhile, the casino lobby has made the legalization and regulation of online gambling its signature issue for the year. Major members including Caesars Entertainment Corp. and MGM Resorts International are taking steps to get into the market.

Proponents formed their own group, the Coalition for Consumer and Online Protection, which is ex-

"Right now, disreputable gaming interests are lobbying hard to spread Internet gambling across the country," the ad warns.

Established casino companies have regarded the rise of Internet gambling warily, wondering whether it will cut into profits from brick-and-mortar casino companies or revive the specter of corruption that the industry worked so hard to shed in the 1980s and '90s. Morgan Stanley has predicted that by 2020, online gambling in the U.S. will produce the same amount of revenue as Las Vegas and Atlantic City markets combined: \$9.3 billion.

ing online gambling legal so long as it's permitted on the state level.

Congress flirted with an online gambling bill in 2012, but industry infighting and partisan disagreement ultimately doomed it. When that legislation failed, states began moving ahead on their own.

Nevada, New Jersey and Delaware have legalized some kind of online gambling, and at least 10 other states are considering following suit, according to a survey conducted by Gambling Compliance, a group that tracks gambling-related legislation worldwide. □



This photo shows bitcoin tokens at 35-year-old software engineer Mike Caldwell's shop in Sandy, Utah.

(AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

Bitcoin exchange struggles as major player drops out

NATHANIEL POPPER

© 2014 New York Times

A major player in the Bitcoin universe was struggling to stay alive Monday, raising questions about whether there is a fundamental flaw in the computer program that underlies the virtual currency.

The price of Bitcoin has fallen sharply, to below \$600 for a single Bitcoin from more than \$800 a week ago. Mt. Gox, a Japanese company that was previously the largest Bitcoin exchange in the world, halted all customer withdrawals late last week.

On Monday, the company said its problems were caused by a previously undetected glitch in the basic Bitcoin protocol that made it possible for users to falsify transactions.

Gavin Andresen, the chief scientist at the Bitcoin Foundation, disputed Mt. Gox's account and said the problem was at the Japanese exchange.

"The issues that Mt. Gox has been experiencing are due to an unfortunate interaction between Mt. Gox's highly customized wallet software, their customer support procedures, and an obscure (but long-known) quirk in the way transactions are identified and not due to a flaw in the Bitcoin protocol," Andresen said in a statement. The price of Bitcoin recovered a bit Monday morning, rising to nearly \$650.

Mt. Gox has been struggling for months to process transactions, leading many customers to take their business to other exchange-

es that have vaulted past Mt. Gox in popularity.

But Mt. Gox's claims were taken seriously because, if true, they raise basic questions about the soundness of the Bitcoin experiment, which has swept the technology and finance world over the last year, taking the price of a single coin up more than 3000 percent. From the creation of Bitcoin in 2009, one of the most important and vaunted features of the Bitcoin program was its ability to prevent the same coins from being moved to two different places at the same time. In its announcement Monday, Mt. Gox said that a bug in the Bitcoin software made it possible for someone to use the Bitcoin network to alter transaction details to make it seem like a Bitcoin transfer had not occurred when, in fact, it had.

The company said: "We have discussed this solution with the Bitcoin core developers and will allow Bitcoin withdrawals again once it has been approved and standardized."

Other exchanges did not report similar problems, but none of the biggest companies immediately put out a response.

Beyond Mt. Gox, Bitcoin users have been rattled by several setbacks in recent days. On Friday, the Russian government said Bitcoin transactions were illegal. They joined the Chinese government, which said in December that financial institutions in the country could not participate in Bitcoin transactions. □

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Report: Iran successfully test-fires 2 missiles

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran has successfully test-fired two missiles, including a long-range ballistic weapon, the official IRNA news agency reported on Monday. The report by IRNA quoted President Hassan Rouhani as congratulating the military.

The “children of Iran successfully test-fired a new generation” of weapons, he said.

The test came a day after a group of lawmakers accused Rouhani of halting a scheduled missile exercise. It was not clear if this was the same test.

Rouhani's policy of outreach to the West and its centerpiece, a deal on Iran's disputed nuclear program, is opposed by hard-liners who accuse him of giving away too much for too little.

Iran has pursued military self-sufficiency since 1992. It produces tanks, jet fighters, submarines and warships, as well as weapons for these systems.

From time to time it an-

nounces technological breakthroughs, most of which cannot be independently verified.

The report did not say if the missiles were new designs,

had radar-evading capabilities, but did not give a name. It said the second missile was called Bina, or “Insightful,” and was laser-guided. It said it could be

meters (1,250 miles) capable of reaching Israel and U.S. military bases in the region.

Both Israel and the U.S. are at odds with Iran over

Also Monday, Iran's foreign ministry summoned Swiss ambassador Giulio Haas to protest what it said were “baseless allegations” by the U.S. Treasury Department against Iran, IRNA reported. The Swiss Embassy looks after American diplomatic interests in Iran.

On Thursday, the Treasury Department announced it was penalizing dozens of foreign companies and individuals for evading Iran sanctions. The targets of the sanctions are located in Turkey, Spain, Germany, Georgia, Afghanistan, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Liechtenstein. Treasury accused the entities and individuals of evading U.S. sanctions against Iran, aiding Iranian nuclear and missile proliferation, and supporting terrorism.

Washington imposed sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program, which it says was aimed at developing weapons technology. Iran denies this and says its program is for peaceful purposes. □



Iranian army members prepare missiles to be launched, during a maneuver, in an undisclosed location in Iran. (AP Photo/Majid Asgaripour)

but the term “new generation” suggests that they were upgrades of existing ones.

It said the ballistic missile

fired from the ground or from aircraft.

Iran already has surface-to-surface missiles with a range of about 2,000 kilo-

its nuclear program and they have not ruled out a military option against the Islamic Republic's nuclear facilities..

North Korea balks again at bid to free American

CHOE SANG-HUN

© 2014 New York Times

SEOUL, South Korea - For a second time, North Korea has rescinded an invitation for a special U.S. envoy to visit Pyongyang, the capital, to seek the release of Kenneth Bae, a Korean-American Christian missionary held in the country for more than a year, the U.S. State Department said Sunday.

In blocking the trip by Ambassador Robert King, Washington's special envoy on North Korean human rights, North Korea again appeared to blame the tensions it said were caused by military exercises that the United States and South Korea are scheduled

to begin this month.

“We are deeply disappointed by the DPRK decision - for a second time - to rescind its invitation for Ambassador King to travel to Pyongyang to discuss Kenneth Bae's release,” said Jen Psaki, the State Department spokeswoman, using the acronym of the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. She pointed out that North Korea “announced publicly in May it would not use the fate of Kenneth Bae as a political bargaining chip.”

Bae, speaking Friday to a pro-North Korean newspaper based in Japan from his penal labor camp outside Pyongyang, said he

had heard that King was to visit North Korea as early as this week to discuss his fate. He told the newspaper, Choson Sinbo, that Pyongyang had extended an invitation to King. North Korea abruptly canceled a similar invitation for King in August, citing the military exercises as its reason.

The exercises are “transparent, regularly scheduled and defense-oriented,” Psaki said. “These exercises are in no way linked to Mr. Bae's case. We again call on the DPRK to grant Bae special amnesty and immediate release as a humanitarian gesture so he may reunite with his family and seek medical care.”

She said Washington main-

tained its longstanding offer to send King to North Korea. Separately, under a request from Bae's family, the Rev. Jesse Jackson offered to travel to Pyongyang on a humanitarian mission to help win Bae's release, she said.

A resident of Washington state, Bae was arrested af-

ter he entered North Korea through the northeastern city of Rason with a group of visitors in November 2012. Using a tourism business as a cover, he was trying to build a covert proselytizing operation in Rason, according to a videotaped sermon he gave at a St. Louis church in 2011. □

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Talks on Syrian conflict resume in Geneva

NICK BRUCE

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GENEVA - As fighting raged unabated in Syria,

conclusive and often fractious exchanges in the first round that ended 10 days ago.

holding talks with Syria's foreign minister, Walid al-Moallem, after his arrival in Geneva on Sunday. The

followed by talks with the government delegation. After the first round of talks ended on Jan. 31, Brahimi acknowledged "we haven't made any progress to speak of" but identified some common ground between the two sides that he said could provide a platform for this week's talks, adding the crucial caveat "if there is good faith and political will."

There was scant evidence of either on Sunday as mortar shelling and sniper fire erupted in the city of Homs, inflicting civilian casualties and damaging aid agency vehicles that had arrived under a U.N.-brokered humanitarian pause. The cease-fire was intended to enable aid agencies to deliver food and medicines to the blockaded Old City, where civilians have been trapped for the past two years.

Several hundred civilians described by aid workers as in frail health were able to get out of the Old City

but the gunfire that reportedly killed at least six civilians and forced aid agency staff to shelter for several hours in the ruins of the Old City starkly exposed the hazards that have hindered international efforts to open up humanitarian access to more than a quarter of a million people believed to be living in areas under siege by government and rebel forces, and to millions of Syrians in other areas where insecurity has obstructed aid deliveries.

The high stakes in the Geneva talks for Syria's war-weary populace were further underscored by reports of scores of casualties in an attack attributed to jihadist rebels on an Alawite village in the central province of Hama.

The London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 20 civilians, including women, and some 20 men defending the village were killed in that assault, The Associated Press reported. □



Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad, left, talks to an aide prior to a press briefing at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, Feb 10, 2014. Syrian government and opposition delegates began a fresh round of U.N.-brokered peace talks Monday, but prospects for common ground appeared unlikely as the two sides traded accusations over weekend violence that disrupted food distribution meant to ease the plight of civilians.

(AP Photo/Anja Niedringhaus)

government and opposition representatives met in Geneva on Monday for a second round of peace negotiations in hopes of moving away from the in-

Lakhdar Brahimi, the U.N. mediator guiding the peace process, prepared the ground by meeting the opposition's chief negotiator on Saturday and then

preliminary discussion did not lead to immediate negotiations. Brahimi began Monday's discussions with another separate meeting with the opposition, to be

Suicide bomb instructor accidentally kills Iraqi pupils

DURAID ADNAN

© 2014 New York Times

BAGHDAD - A group of Sunni militants attending a suicide bombing training class at a camp north of Baghdad were killed Monday when their commander unwittingly conducted a demonstration with a belt that was packed with explosives, army and police officials said.

The militants belonged to a group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, which is fighting the Shiite-dominated army of the Iraqi government, mostly in Anbar province. But they are also linked to

bomb attacks elsewhere and other fighting that has thrown Iraq deeper into sectarian violence.

Twenty-two Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant members were killed, and 15 were wounded, in the explosion at the camp, which is in a farming area in the northeastern province of Samara, according to the police and army officials. Stores of other explosive devices and heavy weapons were also kept there, the officials said.

Eight militants were arrested when they tried to escape, the officials said.

The militant who was con-

ducting the training was not identified by name, but he was described by an Iraqi army officer as a prolific recruiter who was "able to kill the bad guys for once." The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant militants drove into Fallujah and the nearby city of Ramadi, both in Anbar province, earlier this year with heavy weaponry, taking control of key intersections and offices of local authorities. Local security forces and tribes have since re-established control in Ramadi.

But Iraq is developing a plan, with help from the United States, that would

have Sunni tribes take the lead in ending the standoff with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Fallujah, with the Iraqi army in support, a senior State Department official told Congress last week.

The official, Brett McGurk, said that the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant had about 2,000 fighters in Iraq, and that its longer-term objective is to establish a base of operations in Baghdad, led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who has been officially designated as a global terrorist by the State Department.

In other violence in Iraq, a

roadside bomb detonated in the northern city of Mosul alongside the convoy of the speaker of Parliament, the Sunni leader Osama al-Nujaifi, security officials said. Six of his guards were wounded, but al-Nujaifi was unharmed, they said.

In Baghdad, a doctor was found dead with bullet wounds in his head and chest two days after he was kidnapped from his house, medical officials said.

In the Baya district of southwestern Baghdad, a bomb left near a cafe killed four people and wounded 11, according to a police official. □

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1 Year ago, Benedict's announcement changed church

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — It was the quietest of announcements that had the effect of a thunder-clap on the Catholic world: A year ago Tuesday, Pope Benedict XVI said in a voice so soft that cardinals strained to hear (and in a Latin not all could easily follow) that he was becoming the first pontiff to resign in more than half a millennium. On the eve of the anniversary, Benedict's longtime private secretary credited his boss' stunning decision with opening the way to the "enormous impact" Pope Francis is having on the church and world at large.

Monsignor Georg Gaenswein's comments sent out a message of continuity between the awkward, bookish Benedict and his charismatic, super-star successor, the first Jesuit pope and the first pontiff from Latin America. It also may suggest that Benedict approves of the dramatic changes that Francis is bringing about within the church — even if many seem to go against the grain of his more restrained papacy.

"We are all seeing the impact that Pope Francis is having on the world, not just the faithful in the church but in the world — it's an enormous impact — and this impact was also facilitated by Pope Benedict in resigning," Gaenswein told Vatican Television.

"He opened a possibility that until then wasn't there, and we can see that Pope Francis has taken this situation in hand and we're delighted."

Gaenswein is in the historically unique situation of serving two popes: While he remains Benedict's secretary, lives with him in his retirement home in the Vatican gardens and takes daily walks with him each

at his Wednesday general audiences and other public events.

Gaenswein was by Benedict's side on that Monday morning, Feb. 11, 2013 when, during the course of a routine announcement

would retire at the end of the month.

Francis was elected about a month later and has dazzled the world with his simple style, message of mercy over moralizing and a tone of welcoming

Time magazine and has injected new life into an institution that was crumbling following a decade of scandal over sexual abuse, and more recently over the theft of Benedict's private papers by his own butler.

As the anniversary of that momentous day approached, Vatican officials have sought to stress Benedict's generosity, courage and service to the church in deciding to step down as they battle to preserve his legacy amid the increasing temptation to contrast his often problematic papacy and reserved personality with his crowd-pleasing successor.

It's no easy feat when no one ever made a "Super Pope" wall painting of Benedict or created a life-sized chocolate statue of him — as has been the case with Francis.

Recently, the Vatican spokesman felt the need to defend Benedict when Rolling Stone magazine put Francis on the cover and compared his "gentle revolution" to the "disastrous papacy" of his predecessor. □



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, left, welcomes Pope Francis as they exchanged Christmas greetings, at the Vatican.

(AP Photo/L'Osservatore Romano, ho)

afternoon, Gaenswein is also the head of Pope Francis' household, arranging his schedule and appearing regularly with him

of new saints on a Vatican holiday, Benedict announced that he no longer had the "strength of mind and body" to be pope and

that has thrilled progressive Catholics and troubled conservatives.

He has since been named "Person of the Year" by

Former Hellenic Postbank CEO released on bail

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The former head of a Greek bank at the center of a criminal investigation was released on bail Monday after a court appearance to answer questions over allegedly unsecured loans that prosecutors say resulted in losses of 500 million euros for the bank.

Angelos Filippidis, Hellenic Postbank's CEO from 2007

to 2010, was ordered to pay 2 million euros (\$2.73 million) in bail and banned from leaving the country. He was also ordered to appear regularly at his local police station.

Filippidis had been in custody since returning last week from Turkey, where he had been held for more than three weeks pending a Greek request for extradition.

The extradition request was rejected and Filippidis said he returned to Athens of his own accord after his release. He denies any wrongdoing.

About 30 former Postbank officials and businessmen face criminal charges, including fraud and money laundering, over the loans which prosecutors say were unsecured and incor-

rectly approved. "I'm going to fight for the obvious so that banks can do their jobs," Filippidis told reporters as he was led into the courthouse. "If I lose, then prosecutors will be approving loans." Hellenic Postbank merged last year with Greece's Eurobank under a program restructuring the financially struggling country's banking sector. □

China, Taiwan in highest-level talks thus far

**C. BODEEN
PETER ENAV**

Associated Press

NANJING, China (AP) — Taiwan and China are holding their highest-level talks since splitting amid

ment.

No official agenda has been released, but Taiwan's lead negotiator Wang Yu-chi says he hopes to discuss setting up of permanent representa-

Despite that threat, the talks are an outgrowth of China's less-confrontational approach toward Taiwan embraced a decade ago by former president and ruling Communist Par-

"We cannot hand these problems down from generation to generation," Xi told a top Taiwanese envoy at an international gathering in Indonesia last year. China may feel some urgency because of local elections in Taiwan this year that could swing momentum away from the Nationalist Party of deeply unpopular pro-China President Ma Ying-jeou ahead of the next presidential election in 2016.

Beijing is also seen as frustrated that generous economic incentives offered to the island have failed to sway the public there in a more pro-unification direction. Trade between the sides has doubled since 2008 — the year Ma was elected — to \$197.2 billion last year. Taiwan also enjoys a \$116 billion trade surplus with China, one of the few countries or regions that can boast that. Taiwanese companies have invested hundreds of billions of dollars in the mainland, with companies such as Foxconn employing millions of workers making iPhones, Playstations and other popular goods. Taiwan has also benefited heavily from an opening to Chinese tourists. Yet, Taiwanese opposition to unification has only seemed to harden, with about 80 percent supporting the status-quo of de-facto independence and just a sliver backing unification outright. □



Chinese President Xi Jinping watches the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Taiwan and China are holding their highest-level talks since splitting amid a civil war 65 years ago, hoping to further boost contacts and ease lingering tensions.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)

a civil war 65 years ago, hoping to further boost contacts and ease lingering tensions, even as political developments on the self-governing island swing away from Beijing's goal of eventual unification. Tuesday's discussions in the eastern Chinese city of Nanjing constitute the highest-level interaction between government officials of the two sides since the 1949 division — apparently a concession from Beijing which otherwise refuses to formally acknowledge Taiwan's govern-

tive offices on each other's territory and will push for greater Taiwanese representation in international organizations. China is adamant that Taiwan is part of its territory and must accept its political authority, threatening to attack the island if it declares formal independence or delays unification indefinitely. It's backed up that caveat with a military buildup aimed at fending off any intervention by the U.S., which is legally bound to ensure the island's security.

ty leader Hu Jintao. Previous efforts to intimidate the island democracy — with missile firings and military exercises in 1995-1996 — or to influence its internal politics succeeded only in further alienating the electorate. Chinese President Xi Jinping appears to have embraced Hu's approach, although there are indications he is eager to see progress on the political front, in addition to grappling with economic and cultural issues already largely dealt with.

Dubai real estate still running risk of another bubble

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A global property consultant said Monday there are worrying signs that Dubai could be facing another economic bubble after property prices jumped more than 22 percent last year and rents by 17 percent.

Dubai, which is part of the oil-rich United Arab Emirates, has long had a penchant for monumental buildings and development projects, notably a large area around a new airport with hotels, housing and a new conference center to host the world Expo in 2020. Dubai is already home to the world's tallest building — the Burj Khalifa — and numerous manmade islands in the shape of palm trees and a map of the world.

In many sectors, the city is still recovering from the 2009 financial crash that saw property values in Dubai slashed by more than half. The city's government ultimately needed a \$10 billion bailout from neighbor Abu Dhabi, and Dubai-owned companies are still paying back tens of billions of dollars in loans after the city's frenetic building boom came to a halt. In its annual report on real estate trends in the UAE, Jones Lang LaSalle pointed to a number of concerns, including unsustainable growth in property costs and speculative buying. Prices climbed even more after it was announced in November that Dubai would host the world Expo. Concerns of another bubble have been lurking for months. The International Monetary Fund said in a statement earlier this year that Dubai's megaprojects, if not "implemented prudently," could exacerbate the danger of a bubble and create additional risks for government-linked companies and the banking system.

Jones Lang LaSalle said that the rise in residential property prices last year was "irrational." □

Suspected Filipino rebels bomb high-voltage tower

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Suspected hard-line Muslim rebels detonated bombs but failed to topple a high-voltage power transmission tower in the southern Philippines in their latest attempt to derail a looming government peace deal with a larger insurgent group, the military said.

The suspected Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement fighters rigged four bombs fashioned from mortar rounds at the base of the steel tower in a mountain village in Sultan Kudarat town in Maguindanao

province this weekend, regional military spokesman Lt. Col. Dickson Hermoso said. Three of the bombs went off and damaged the tower, but it failed to collapse or cause a power outage.

Hermoso said the desperate rebels were resorting to acts of economic sabotage to try to derail a looming peace agreement that they oppose between the government and the larger Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The rebels were also believed to have placed a

homemade bomb at a liquefied petroleum gas store in Kabacan town in nearby North Cotabato province Wednesday, but villagers discovered the explosive and called the police. The bomb went off while army troops were trying to defuse it, wounding two passers-by and setting the cooking gas store on fire, police said.

The rebels broke off from the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front three years ago, saying the main rebel group's peace negotiations with the govern-

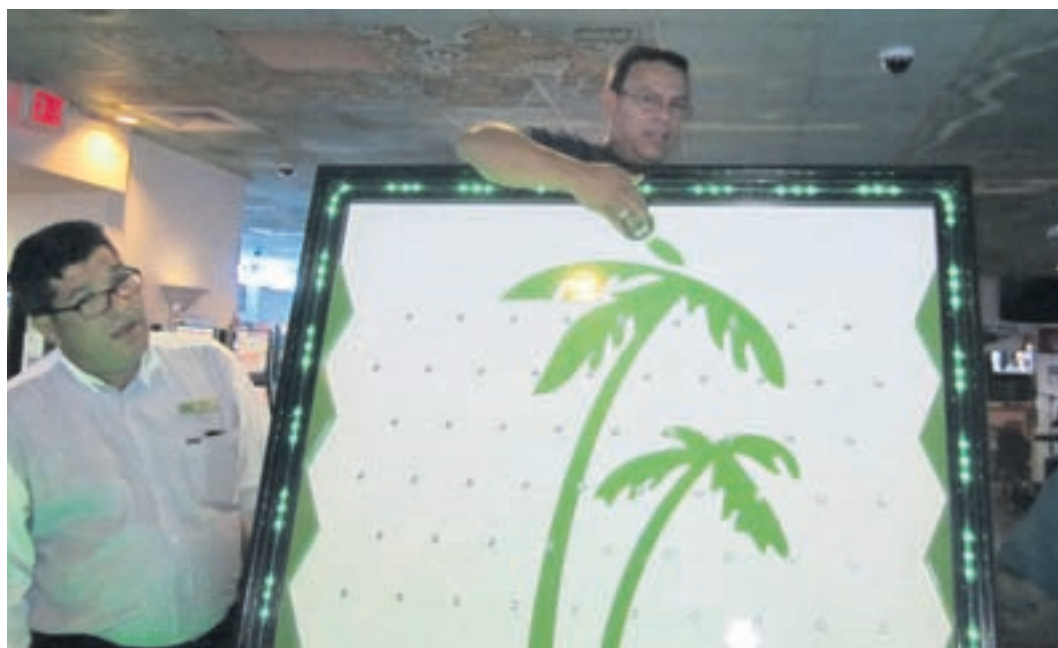
ment would not lead to the establishment of a separate Islamic state that they have long aspired. They vowed to continue fighting for a separate homeland for minority Muslims in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic country. Philippine troops killed 52 of the hard-line rebels and captured a key Maguindanao stronghold with a bomb-making facility in a recent offensive. Army troops and police were hunting the breakaway rebels and their commanders, Hermoso said. □



Trop Club & Casino ready to celebrate Valentine's day!



EAGLE BEACH - The Trop Club & Casino offers great Valentine's Day gifts to its Trop Advantage Club members with the current Earn & Redeem Valentine's Day Gifts promotion, open to all Trop Advantage-carded slot players! Gifts may be picked up on Valentine's day, Thursday, February 14th, and on Friday, February 15th, between 7pm and 11pm at the Advantage Players' Center. Players are invited to treat themselves or a loved one to one of the fabulous gifts, while supply last. Wilfred Trimon, Casino Director explains that Valentine's Gift can be easily earned, as play-



ers receive one gift for 250 or 450 points earned playing slots anytime from the

moment the casino opens at 12:01pm, on February 6th, 7th, 13th and 14th.

The points must be earned by playing any of the casino's slots and redeemed

on that same day, with the player's Trop Advantage Card. The promotion is reserved to members of Trop Advantage Club, who may also enjoy the game of Plinko on Friday and Saturday evenings during the month of February, getting an opportunity to win more than AWG 5,000 in cash and Trop Play, every weekend during the month.

The Trop Club and Casino, has been staging spectacular promotions and over the year entertained slot and table players with Rolling for Riches, It's Raining iPads and Slot Star Championships just to name a few, with Chinese New Year and Plinko, just joining the list of stellar promotions. □

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*Virginia
Rasmijn*

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PALM BEACH - The carnival show at the Radisson Resort is a comeback attraction of how Aruba used to be in the old days with local vendors selling hand-made arts and crafts. This spectacular carnival show consists out of a "fire and limbo show" and a live brass and steel band around the pool. The entrance to be enjoying this event is completely free of charge and open to everybody; young and old!

able for the price of \$ 20, -- and consists out of: BBQ chicken, ribs, Aruban style potatoes, corn on the cob, seafood rice and chorizo. Happy Hour is from 4PM to 6PM and the drinks are being served with a 50% discount. On Sunday the famous brunch is from 11.30 AM to 2.30PM. This Sunday brunch will be filled with a combination of soups, salads, desserts, fish, meat and shrimps and of course live music. The food is out of this world. On top of all this you will also be able to choose champagne, juices or soft drinks. The total price of this super brunch is only \$29.50 (excl. service charge and tax) In case you like to get a "real" drink or a tropical cocktail, the place to go is the bar, called 'Mira Solo'. Come and try it out for yourself. Feel and taste the great service provided to our visiting guest from all over the world and of course to our local customers as well.☐

Griffey Jr., Larkin do baseball diplomacy in Cuba

ANNE-MARIE GARCIA

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Two of Major League Baseball's biggest names are in Havana as part of a sports diplomacy program that aims to foster personal ties between citizens of the U.S. and Cuba, two nations that have long seen eye-to-eye on little other than their shared love for the sport. Hall of Famer Barry Larkin and Ken Griffey Jr. — a good bet to be enshrined after he becomes eligible — are holding sports clinics for little-leaguers, talking baseball with Cuban fans and taking in a game featuring the powerhouse ball club Industriales.

"The passion for baseball is unbelievable here, and for a baseball guy that's what we want to see," Griffey told The Associated Press. "You see the (Cubans) that come over (to MLB) and how passionate they are about playing the game, but it starts out with 8- and 9-year-olds," he added.

"So I wanted to personally see what it was like. And so far it's been unbelievable for us."

He spoke Sunday at a clinic the players put on for Cuban youth, dressed in a blue shirt and a white cap emblazoned with the American and Cuban flags.

"What are we thinking before the game?" Larkin asked the kids in Spanish, which he learned in the Dominican Republic.

"Winning!" they cried in unison.

"Everybody wants to be associated with something positive, and when you're dealing with baseball, you're dealing with kids," Larkin said. "It's all about passing on the legacy, passing on the tradition and helping those kids become better."

I feel like it's our responsibility."

Olympic softball champion Natasha Watley and Joe Logan, a former pitcher in the Montreal Expos organization, were also on the trip.

The visit was organized by the Boston-based Edu-

cational Travel Alliance, which for years has promoted sporting and cultural exchanges between Cuba and the U.S.

Washington's 52-year-old embargo bars most U.S. travel Cuba without a license from the U.S. government, although the number

of Americans visiting legally on cultural, academic, athletic and so-called people-to-people exchanges has increased significantly since 2011.

In January, the University of Tampa baseball team came to Cuba for exhibition games against lo-

cal squads. And in recent months, after a Cuban migratory reform took effect, Cuban-born Major League players such as Jose Ariel Contreras also visited.

This week's itinerary includes a dinner with local sports luminaries and a tour of a sports academy. The

visitors also played an afternoon softball game with local senior players and a couple of diplomats from the U.S. Interests Section, which Washington maintains as its mission in Havana because the countries do not have formal diplomatic relations. □

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U.S. hockey team seeks its own historic achievement

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — David Backes realizes every U.S. Olympic hockey team inevitably ends up in the vast shadow of the 1980 Miracle on Ice squad, which stunned the Soviet Union and eventually won gold in Lake Placid.

Although the American players who held their first practice in Sochi Monday night know all about the greatest achievement in U.S. hockey history, they think it's time for some fresh heroics.

After all, this is the first U.S. Olympic hockey team featuring no player born when the Miracle occurred.

"I think the Miracle obviously is a great accomplishment for the U.S., but it was 34 years ago, and we're still living on something that happened 34 years ago," said Backes, a two-time Olympian. "As great as it was, and as awesome an accomplishment, I think the guys here would like to write our own chapter, and then we can talk about '80 and 2014."

The U.S. team doesn't have



USA goaltender Jonathan Quick, left, talks with goaltender Jimmy Howard during a training session at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, in Sochi, Russia.

Associated Press

the flashy offensive talent showcased by Canada or Sweden. The Americans certainly don't have Russia's national imperative to win gold, not even after their own 34-year Olympic championship drought.

Yet captain Zach Parise and his teammates didn't exactly sneak in the side door at the Bolshoy Ice Dome for their first practice.

The Americans are a proven nightmare in international play with their combination of workmanlike play and stellar goaltending. While the hockey world focuses on Russia's collision course with defending champion Canada over the next 12 days in Sochi, the U.S. team is also quietly determined to reach the tournament final for the third time in the last four Olympics — and to leave with a better result.

"They raised the standard in 2010," defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk said. "Nothing else is acceptable for us now, other than gold."

Continued on page 21



In this Jan. 1, 2014, file photo, Missouri senior defensive lineman Michael Sam speaks to the media during an NCAA college football news conference in Irving, Texas.

Associated Press

Michael Sam bravely comes out. Now what?

PAUL NEWBERRY

AP National Writer

Michael Sam could've taken the — well, not the easy, but certainly the easier — way out by staying mum on his sexual orientation, at least until after the NFL draft.

Instead, one of America's top college football players bravely decided to speak now, to tell everyone he is gay at a time when NFL teams are grading the guys they'll be picking in a couple of months.

This is not Jason Collins, as courageous as he was, coming out at the end of his NBA career. This is a young man just getting started as a professional, after leading the University of Missouri to one of the best seasons in school history.

Finally, we'll get to see how this plays out, an openly gay player lining up in America's most popular sport. Finally, we'll get to see what barriers we've broken down and, more important, what hurdles

remain when someone acknowledges they are gay, then competes with and against guys who may be repelled by the notion of having a relationship with another man.

Because of Sam, it will be easier for the next guy. And the guy after that. But for all the progress this country has made in gay rights, there will surely be plenty of ugliness in the weeks and months and years to come.

Continued on page 22

NBA Capsules

Paul returns in Clippers' 123-78 rout of 76ers

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Blake Griffin had 26 points, 11 rebounds and six assists as the Los Angeles Clippers stormed out to a 31-point lead in the first quarter with Chris Paul back in the lineup and pummeled the Philadelphia 76ers 123-78 Sunday.

Jamal Crawford scored 21 for the defending Pacific Division champions, who were 12-6 while Paul was sidelined with a separated right shoulder that occurred on Jan. 3 at Dallas. The seven-time All-Star point guard had seven points and eight assists in 23 minutes. DeAndre Jordan had 20 rebounds and 10 points, helping Los Angeles increase its division lead over idle Phoenix to four games.

Reserve Tony Wroten scored 21 points for the 76ers, losers of six straight and 13 of 16. Center Spencer Hawes missed all eight shots in 23 scoreless minutes and had just two rebounds.

The 45-point margin of victory was the largest for the Clippers' franchise. The previous record was 37 on Dec. 5, 1975, when the Buffalo Braves beat Cleveland 125-88 at home.

Philadelphia never challenged after the Clippers built a 69-30 halftime lead — matching the largest halftime advantage in franchise history set this season against Chicago. Crawford's 15-footer gave the Clippers their biggest lead, 89-33, with 6:01 left in the third quarter. It was 100-51 going into the fourth.

THUNDER 112, KNICKS 100
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant had 41 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists to help Oklahoma City beat New York.

Reggie Jackson added 19 points and six assists, and Serge Ibaka had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Thunder, who were coming off a 103-102 loss to

struggling Orlando on Friday night.

Durant, the NBA's leading scorer, got the best of his duel with New York's Carmelo Anthony, the league's No. 2 scorer. Anthony had with 15 points on 5-for-19 shooting for the Knicks, who have lost four of five.

Raymond Felton and Amare Stoudemire each scored 16 points for the Knicks.

The Thunder made 12 3-pointers and shot 55 percent overall.

MAGIC 93, PACERS 92

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Victor Oladipo had 23 points, including 13 in the fourth quarter, as Orlando rallied to surprise Indiana.

Indiana stole Orlando's inbounds pass with 9 seconds left and Paul George was able to get off a 20-foot jumper. But it was deflected and rebounded by the Magic, who ran out the clock.

Orlando has beaten the top teams in both conferences in back-to-back games, having stunned Oklahoma City on Friday. The victory ties the Magic's season-high win streak of three games. It also extends their home win streak to five consecutive games. Nik Vucevic added 19 points and 13 rebounds.

George led the Pacers with 27 points. Lance Stephenson added 16. The loss ended Indiana's win streak at four games.

BULLS 92, LAKERS 86

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kirk Hinrich scored 19 points, Joakim Noah had 18 points and 13 rebounds as Chicago held off Los Angeles after nearly blowing a 19-point lead.

Taj Gibson added 18 points for the Bulls, who never trailed against an injury-ravaged Lakers squad missing Kobe Bryant, Pau Gasol, Jordan Farmar, Nick Young, Jodie Meeks and Xavier Henry.

Center Chris Kaman scored a season-high 27 points



Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul, right, puts up a shot as Philadelphia 76ers center Spencer Hawes defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

off the bench for the Lakers, who won their previous two games following a 3-19 slide that buried them in the race for a Western Conference playoff spot. □

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Richard Petty doubts Patrick's ability to win

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - NASCAR Hall of Fame driver Richard Petty says Danica Patrick can only win a Sprint Cup Series race "if everybody else stayed home." The seven-time champion made the comment during a Sunday appearance at the Canadian Motorsports Expo in Toronto, according to the website wheels.ca.

Petty also said Patrick only gets attention because she's a woman, but added that publicity is good for NASCAR.

"If she'd have been a male, nobody would ever know if she'd showed up at a racetrack," Petty said, according to the website. "This is a female deal that's driving her. There's nothing wrong with that, because that's good PR for me. More fans come out, people are more interested in it. She has helped to draw attention to the sport, which helps every-



In this Feb. 21, 2013 file photo, NASCAR Hall of Fame driver Richard Petty speaks during a news conference at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

body in the sport." Petty still maintains partial control of Richard Petty Motorsports, which fields cars for Marcos Ambrose and Aric Almirola in the Sprint Cup Series. Patrick is headed to Daytona International Speedway this week to begin

her second full season at NASCAR's top level. She became the first woman a year ago to win the top starting spot for the Daytona 500 and she finished eighth. It was Patrick's best finish during a rough rookie year

in which she averaged a 26th-place finish. Patrick was 27th in the final Sprint Cup standings.

A year ago, Petty's son, Kyle, called Patrick a "marketing machine" during various media appearances. Kyle Petty is a former driver and current television analyst.

"That's where I have a problem - where fans have bought into the hype of the marketing, to think she's a race car driver," Kyle Petty said. "She can go fast, and I've seen her go fast. She drives the wheels off it when she goes fast. She's not a race car driver. There's a difference. The King (Richard Petty) always had that stupid saying, but it's true, 'Lots of drivers can drive fast, but very few drivers can race.' Danica has been the perfect example of somebody who can qualify better than what she runs." Patrick, who recently starred in her celeb-

rity-leading 13th Super Bowl commercial for sponsor GoDaddy, dismissed Kyle Petty's comments at the time. "It's true that there are plenty of people who say bad things about me; I read them," she said at the time. "At the end of the day, you get over that stuff and trust that you are doing a good job."

Patrick was defended by team co-owner Tony Stewart, the three-time champion, who called Kyle Petty's comments "way out of line and very inappropriate." Stewart also said Patrick's finishes weren't indicative of her talent.

"When somebody like Kyle beats you up like that, you take it to heart," he said. "She's somebody who wants to do things the right way. She works at it. It's a scenario where somebody has to tell you, 'You are doing the right thing and disregard what one person says.'"

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Olympic Roundup Hoeffl-Riesch wins 2nd gold in super-combined

DAVID PACE

Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia (AP) — Different American, same result for Maria Hoeffl-Riesch — another Olympic gold in the super-combined.

Just as she did four years ago at the Vancouver Games, Hoeffl-Riesch found herself trailing an American after the downhill leg before using her slalom skills to vault into first place and successfully defend her Olympic title in the dual-run event.

The German finished less than a second ahead of both silver medalist Nicole Hosp of Austria and Julia Mancuso of the United States, who won the bronze.

Mancuso won silver in the event in Vancouver.

Lindsey Vonn had the fastest downhill time in Van-

couver, but when Vonn skied out on the slalom, Hoeffl-Riesch roared back to claim gold. This time, Vonn is out with an injury, and Mancuso replaced her at the top the standings after the downhill.

Also on Day 4 of the Sochi Olympics, Charles Hamelin of Canada raced to the 1,500-meter short track speedskating gold, and Viktor Ahn earned the bronze to give Russia its first-ever short track medal; Michel Mulder of the Netherlands earned the 500-meter speedskating gold; Martin Fourcade won the 12.5-kilometer biathlon pursuit; and Alex Bilodeau won his second consecutive gold medal in men's moguls.

ALPINE SKIING: Hoeffl-Riesch was fifth fastest in the opening downhill leg, trailing

Mancuso by 1.04 seconds. The German's two-run time of 2 minutes, 34.62 seconds was 0.40 seconds faster than Hosp. Mancuso, who finished 0.53 behind Hoeffl-Riesch, won her fourth career Olympic medal in Alpine skiing. No other American woman has won more than two.

SHORT TRACK SPEEDSKATING: At 29, Hamelin was the oldest skater in the first final of the short track competition. The wily veteran maintained a top-three position throughout most of the 14-lap race, leaving enough at the end to defeat a loaded field, including Ahn and silver medalist Han Tianyu of China. Ahn was a three-time gold medalist for his native South Korea, but after missing the Vancouver Games



Women's super combined medalists, from left, Nicole Hosp of Austria, silver, Maria Hoeffl-Riesch of Germany, gold, and Julia Mancuso of the United States, bronze, pose with their medals at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Monday, Feb. 10, 2014.

Associated Press

he changed his name and became a Russian citizen. When he stepped on the medals podium, the mostly Russian crowd erupted in wild cheers.

SPEEDSKATING: Mulder's 500-meter speedskating victory earned him the title of fastest man on skates. Teammate Jan Smeekeens was 0.01 seconds behind for silver, and twin Ronald

Mulder took bronze in a Dutch sweep.

BIATHLON: Fourcade's win earned France its first medal. Ondrej Moravec of Czech Republic took the silver, and Jean Guillaume Beatrix of France earned bronze. Ole Einar Bjoern-dalen of Norway finished fourth, missing out on a record 13th Winter Olympic medal.

U.S. Hockey

Continued from page 18

The U.S. team lost the final to Canada in Salt Lake City in 2002 and again in Vancouver. Two silver medals in three Olympics are undeniably impressive, but not what the Americans are aiming for when they begin play Thursday against Slovakia.

"A lot of us were on the team in Vancouver," defenseman Ryan Suter said. "We felt how close we really were. We all learned a lot from that experience, and I think we're just excited to be here and have another shot at this."

The Americans got another reason to work hard Monday night when they learned they won't be joined in Sochi by the man

who led the committee that picked them for the Olympic team. General manager David Poile must stay home in Nashville for further medical treatment after getting hit by a puck last week in Minnesota.

Yet Poile already assembled a team that seems capable of competing against everything it will see in Sochi. The Americans feature balanced offense from a slew of 20-goal NHL scorers, a gritty two-way approach to the flashy international game, and elite goaltending from Buffalo's Ryan Miller or Los Angeles' Jonathan Quick.

Dan Bylsma already has decided on his goalie strategy for the first three games, but he hasn't told Miller or Quick.

Even with elite goaltending, the Americans' fate



In this Feb. 28, 2010, file photo, USA's Zach Parise (9) celebrates after scoring a goal in the third period of the men's gold medal ice hockey game against Canada at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia. Parise, of the Minnesota Wild, will be the captain of the U.S. men's hockey team at the Sochi Olympics.

Associated Press

could be tied to the success of their defensemen. Poile and his committee chose a defense that emphasized skill and youth over size and experience, hoping to match the world's best

forwards on the wider international ice surface with swift puck movement and skating.

"To win it in a short tournament like this, it's about who comes together and plays

not only the best hockey, but who gets better as the tournament goes along," said Dustin Brown, a two-time Olympian and the Los Angeles Kings' captain. "I think that was a big part of our success in Vancouver. Each and every game, we got better."

While the Americans have sky-high internal expectations for Sochi, they won't be under the microscope faced by Russia and Canada. The U.S. team is free to grow through the three group-stage games before the elimination portion of the tournament, where the Americans are confident they can be trouble.

"There's so many teams that play the international style well, and we have to try to match it with the things we do the best," forward Paul Stastny said.

Venus wins opener in Doha

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Venus Williams eased past Croatian qualifier Petra Martić 6-2, 6-2 to line up a second-round match with former Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová in the Qatar Open on Monday. Williams was broken only once, when she led Martić 4-0.

She has an up and down record so far this season, reaching the final in Auckland and losing in the first round at the Australian Open. Williams has won only one of her three matches against Kvitová, the third seed who has a first-round bye, but all three



Venus Williams of U.S. returns the ball to Croatia's Petra Martić during the first day of the WTA Qatar Ladies Open in Doha, Qatar, Monday, Feb. 10, 2014.

Associated Press

have gone the distance.

Also, China's Peng Shuai beat 2006 champion Nadia Petrova 7-6 (5), 7-5 to even their matchups at 4-4. Petrova, who had to qualify after an injury-plagued 2013 dropped her singles ranking to 100, almost pulled off the win despite nine double faults.

Tsvetana Pironkova of Bulgaria defeated Roberta Vinci of Italy 6-3, 6-3 for the first time in four matches, while Annika Beck beat Mona Barthel in their all-German match 7-6 (5), 6-2 for the first time in three matches.

Taiwanese qualifier Hsieh Su-wei won for the first time against Italy's Flavia Pennetta 7-5, 6-3, and Czech qualifier Petra Cetkovská beat American Sloane Stephens 7-5, 6-1. Stephens, who'd beaten Cetkovská at the last two Wimbledons, rallied to level at 5-5, but could win only one more game as she lost her serve five times.

Berdych wins at ABN Amro

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Third-seeded Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic beat Andreas Seppi of Italy for the fifth time in a row 6-3, 6-3 to open his account at the ABN Amro tournament on Monday. Berdych, coming off a semifinal run at the Australian Open and Davis Cup win over the Netherlands, didn't face a break-point. A semifinalist two years ago here, he will play the winner of an all-French faceoff between Gilles Simon and Nicolas Mahut.

Fifth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga played Florian Mayer of Germany late Monday.



Tomas Berdych from the Czech Republic serves to Thiemo De Bakker from the Netherlands during their Davis Cup first round singles match in Ostrava, Czech Republic, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2014.

Associated Press



In this Sept. 21, 2013, file photo, Missouri's Michael Sam (52) sings the school song after Missouri defeated Indiana in an NCAA college football game in Bloomington, Ind. The All-American athlete says he is gay, and the defensive end could become the first openly homosexual player in the NFL.

Associated Press

Michael Sam

Continued from page 18

"The reality is: Michael Sam is going to open himself up to a lot of criticism and a lot of challenges," said former NFL offensive lineman Frank Garcia, a sports radio show host in Charlotte. "Those are challenges most gay people have to go through, but when you are dealing with alpha males and some meatheads in an NFL locker room, it's amplified. And there are some guys who have strong religious beliefs too, so he's going to be judged. He's going to face some things that are going to be very difficult to overcome."

We've already seen more than a glimpse at what Sam will face. At last year's Super Bowl, San Francisco cornerback Chris Culliver made a fool of himself when jokingly asked by comedian Artie Lange if he would ever pursue a gay man. "Ain't got no gay people on the team," Culliver said. "They gotta get up outta here if they do. Can't be with that sweet stuff." A few years ago, I broached the idea of having an openly gay teammate to baseball players in the Atlanta Braves club-

house. One freely conceded he would be uncomfortable dressing or showering in front of someone he knew was gay, and I've long suspected he was not alone in that attitude. Anyone who has ever been in a sports locker-room knows what a macho world that can be, where distasteful — even hurtful — words are thrown around with shocking frequency.

Just ask Jonathan Martin, the offensive lineman who walked away from the Miami Dolphins this past season, claiming he was bullied and harassed daily by teammate Richie Incognito and others.

Eight NFL executives and coaches, interviewed by SI.com and given anonymity so they could give their true opinions, revealed the daunting challenges that Sam set himself up for by coming out ahead of the draft.

Before he spoke, the Southeastern Conference defensive player of the year was projected as a mid- to late-round draft pick. Now, according to everyone interviewed by SI.com, his stock will certainly plummet.

"I just know with this going on this is going to drop him down," a veteran NFL scout said. "Do you want to be the team to, quote-un-

quote, break that barrier?" A player personnel assistant added, "I don't think football is ready for it just yet. In the coming decade or two, it's going to be acceptable, but at this point in time it's still a man's-man game. To call somebody a (gay slur) is still so commonplace." Imagine what Sam might face on the field, in a sport where it's not all that unusual for a player to exact his own version of justice with a low blow or a dirty block.

But there's some encouraging signs, as well.

Sam came out in August to his teammates and coaches at Missouri, and it sure didn't seem to have any negative impact on the Tigers. They went 12-2, won the SEC East Division title, and defeated Oklahoma State in the Cotton Bowl. Sam, a 6-foot-2, 255-pound (1.88-meter, 116-kilogram) defensive end, led the conference in sacks (11.5) and tackles for loss (19).

"Michael is a great example of just how important it is to be respectful of others, he's taught a lot of people here firsthand that it doesn't matter what your background is, or your personal orientation, we're all on the same team and we all support each other," coach Gary Pinkel said.

Google subsidiary to run nearby federal airfield

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - The U.S. government has picked a Google subsidiary to run and renovate a federal airfield that is frequently used for the personal flights of the Internet company's billionaire executives.

The decision announced Monday clears the way for Google's Planetary Ventures LLC to take over management of the 1,000-acre Moffett Federal Airfield, a former U.S. Navy based located four miles from Google's Mountain View, Calif., headquarters. The airfield, which was built in the 1930s, has been managed by NASA's Ames Research Center for the past 23 years.

Financial terms of the new arrangement still must be worked out among Google, NASA and the General Services Adminis-

tration.

As part of the deal, Google Inc. must renovate the airfield's three hangars, including one that is a Silicon Valley landmark because of its massive size and location off a major highway. Google also has agreed to upgrade a golf course located next to the airfield. "We are delighted to move ahead in the selection process and we look forward to working with both GSA and NASA to preserve the heritage of Moffett Federal Airfield," Google said in a statement Monday.

Government officials hailed Google's selection as a boon for taxpayers. Besides covering the day-to-day expenses for managing the airfield, Google is also paying for expensive repairs unlikely ever to be financed by the government.

Restoring the airfield's most



FILE - In this Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013, file photo, two men fish in the water in front of a Google barge on Treasure Island in San Francisco.

Associated Press

prominent structure, the 200-foot-tall Hangar One, will be particularly expensive. Hangar One's origi-

nal siding was removed because of contamination from toxic lead and asbestos, raising the risks that the historic edifice might eventually have to be torn down. The cost of covering the now-skeletal hangar is expected to be more than \$40 million.

"NASA's partnership with the private sector will allow the agency to restore this treasure for more efficient use," said Dan Tangherlini, administrator of the General Services Administration. The decision to entrust Moffett's fate to Google comes just two months after NASA's inspector general issued a report that raised questions about whether the company's three most powerful executives had been given a sweetheart deal while flying their personal jets and helicopters from the airfield.

The audit found out that seven jets and two helicopters owned by Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin and Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt had received improper discounts on fuel that saved the three billionaires up to \$5.3 million on flights dating back to 2009. The Google executives own the aircraft through a company called H211, which has been paying \$1.4 million annually since 2007 to lease hangar space at Moffett.

Although H211 and Planetary Ventures are separate entities, a frequent Google critic said the U.S. government is rewarding "unethical and wrongful behavior" by awarding the Moffett management contract to the company. "This is like giving the keys to your car to the guy who has been siphoning gas from your tank," said John Simpson, privacy project director for Consumer Watchdog.

Google beat out one other competitor for the Moffett contract, which went up for bidding last May. Ames Research Center spokeswoman Jessica Culler declined to identify the other bidder.

The current lease allowing Page, Brin and Schmidt to fly their aircraft from Moffett is scheduled to expire in July. It's unclear whether the executives will seek to renew the lease because they are working with a private contractor to build another space for their planes at the Mineta San Jose International Airport located about 10 miles from Moffett.

The pilots of commercial airlines sometimes have mistakenly made landing approaches toward the Moffett airfield instead of the San Jose airport, according to a review of government safety data by The Associated Press.

Creator says game over for maddening Flappy Bird

TRAN VAN MINH

Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) —

The young Vietnamese creator of hit mobile game Flappy Bird has removed it from the App Store and Google Play saying it ruined his life.

The game which was uploaded in 2013 but only surged to the top in downloads earlier this year was removed early Monday.

The success of the game that based its appeal on being simple and also maddeningly difficult made its creator Nguyen Ha Dong, 29, a minor celebrity.

The game was downloaded more than 50 million times on App Store alone. In an interview with The Verge website, Dong said Flappy Bird was making \$50,000 a day in advertising revenue.

But tech blogger Carter Thomas said the sudden popularity of Flappy Bird might have been due to use of fake accounts run by computers to create



A Vietnamese man uses a laptop to go online by a 3G device inserted into a USB pot at a cafe in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on Wednesday, May 14, 2013.

Associated Press

downloads and reviews.

Thomas said he couldn't prove his suspicion and that the success of Flappy Bird might also be explained by it being "just a wildly viral game."

Dong, from Hanoi, wrote on Twitter on Saturday that the Internet sensation caused by the game "ruins my simple life" and he now hated it.

"I will take Flappy Bird down. I cannot take this anymore," he wrote.

Dong had agreed to talk to The Associated Press about the game in an interview scheduled for Friday, but canceled.

On Twitter he didn't address the inflated downloads allegation but denied suggestions he was withdrawing the game because it breached another game maker's copyright.

"It is not anything related to legal issues. I just cannot keep it anymore," he wrote.

Stocks end slightly higher in quiet trading

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market ended up more or less where it began Monday in a quiet day for investors who had little economic data or company earnings to react to. Analysts said the market is likely to remain in a holding pattern until traders hear from Janet Yellen in her first testimony before Congress since becoming head of the Federal Reserve.

After spending most of the day lower, the Dow Jones Industrial average turned slightly higher in late trading and closed up 7.71 points, or 0.1 percent, at 15,801.79. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.82 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,799.84 and the Nasdaq composite rose 22.31 points, or 0.5 percent, to 4,148.17.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq was pushed higher by Apple, which rose \$9.31, or 2 percent, to \$528.99. Apple rose after the activist investor Carl Icahn said he has dropped his shareholder proposal to force Apple to increase its stock buybacks. Apple recently disclosed it had bought \$14 billion of its own stock.

Yellen, who started her term as head of the central bank this month, is scheduled to testify before Congress on Tuesday and Wednesday. Yellen's comments will be closely watched, especially after recent disappointing economic news and the Fed's decision to further reduce on its monthly bond pur-

chases.

Despite recent volatility in the market, investors believe that Yellen will likely continue her predecessor's plan to continue winding down the Fed's economic stimulus program. Last week, the Fed cut its bond purchases to \$65 billion a month. "We should expect more volatility as the Fed

announcing this week reported their results Monday: the toy maker Hasbro and the industrial conglomerate Loews Corp.

Hasbro rose \$2.27, or 5 percent, to \$52.36. Hasbro's said its fourth-quarter profits fell from a year ago, due to a slow holiday season, but it also boosted its dividend and issued a bright

results. While the earnings results have been solid — up 8.1 percent from a year ago, according to FactSet — many companies have been lowering their forecasts for 2014. Fifty-seven companies have cut their forecasts for 2014, while only 14 have raised them, according to FactSet.

"The guidance for the up-



Trader Stephen McSherry, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The stock market ended up more or less where it began Monday in a quiet day for investors who had little economic data or company earnings to react to.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

transitions away from its (economic stimulus plan)," said Doug Cote, chief investment strategist at ING Investment Management. Investors got a respite from a recent deluge of earnings and economic reports. Wall Street remains in the middle of earnings season, when the bulk of the nation's publicly traded companies report their quarterly results. Only two out of the 55 companies

outlook for 2014.

Loews, which owns a variety of businesses including insurance, oil drilling and hotels and resorts, fell \$1.92, or 4 percent, to \$43.26. The company reported a loss of 51 cents a share, due to some one-time charges tied to its ownership of insurance company CNA Financial.

So far this quarter, 344 members of the S&P 500 index have reported their

coming quarters has not been good at all," said Sam Stovall, chief equity strategist with S&P Capital IQ. Stocks are also coming off of a strong finish last week. The Dow rose 188 points on Thursday and 166 points on Friday. The market rallied Friday despite a government report that U.S. employers added just 113,000 jobs in January, fewer than economists were anticipating. □

McDonald's US sales chilled by winter weather

CANDICE CHOI

AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — McDonald's says bad weather hurt its U.S. sales performance in January, representing another setback as the fast-food chain fights to fend off rivals and get its menu right.

The world's biggest hamburger chain says sales fell 3.3 percent at established U.S. locations last month.

Its global sales figure rose 1.2 percent, however, lifted by improvements in Europe and the region encompassing Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

The decline in the U.S. is just the latest disappointment for McDonald's, which has conceded that its kitchen operations got overly complicated by the pace of new menu offerings. CEO Don Thompson also recently noted that the chain has lost some of its "relevance" with customers.

In hopes of attracting more diners, McDonald's has been aggressively promoting its revamped Dollar Menu, which includes new burgers that cost more than a dollar. The rollout of the Dollar Menu & More was designed to help improve the company's profit margins without alienating price-sensitive customers who've grown accustomed to the idea of paying just a buck for various items. Still, rivals including Burger King and Wendy's have been promoting their value menus and special offers as well. More broadly, McDonald's is trying to adapt to shifting eating habits by introducing items that are positioned as healthy or fresh, such as its chicken wraps and breakfast sandwiches made with egg whites.

The efforts have yet to pay off. According to a regulatory filing, McDonald's saw customer traffic at established locations decline 1.6 percent in the U.S. last year. In January, its performance elsewhere in the world improved.

In Europe, sales rose 2 percent at locations open at least 13 months, boosted by results in the United Kingdom and France. □

Teva: US is investigating Copaxone marketing

NEW YORK (AP) — Teva Pharmaceutical Industries said Monday the federal government is investigating its marketing of its multiple sclerosis drug Copaxone and Parkinson's disease treatment Azilect.

The Israeli drugmaker said the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York wants it to provide documents related to the marketing of the drugs from Jan. 1, 2006, to the

present. It said the government is conducting a civil investigation into possible violations of the False Claims Act, a law that allows the government to collect damages reported by private citizens. Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., the largest generic drug company in the world, also sells brand-name medications. The company reported \$20.32 billion in revenue in 2013, and \$4.33 billion of that

total came from Copaxone, the world's biggest-selling multiple sclerosis treatment. Teva also reported \$371 million in Azilect sales.

Citi Investment Research analyst Liav Abraham said the government has been conducting more False Claims Act investigations of drug companies in recent years. She said it's hard to predict how long the inquiry might last, although three to four years is typi-

cal. In many cases drug companies have paid fines to settle government investigations, but Abraham said it's not clear if Teva will do that, or how much the company would have to pay if it did so. In 2012 Teva said the federal government was looking into allegations it paid bribes to government officials in Latin America.

Shares of Teva slipped 65 cents to \$43.87 in morning trading. □

Icahn retreats from Apple battle on stock buybacks

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Activist investor Carl Icahn is retreating from his battle

board.

To hit Icahn's target, Apple's board would have had to increase the volume of a stock buybacks

of the shares. His holdings translate to a stake of less than 1 percent.

Apple declined to comment Monday. The Cu-

following quarterly earnings report that disappointed Wall Street.

Icahn cited Apple's recent flurry of stock repurchases as one of the reasons for his change of heart.

"We are pleased that Tim and the board have exhibited the 'opportunistic' and 'aggressive' approach to share repurchases that we hoped to instill with our proposal," Icahn wrote in an open letter to Apple's shareholders. He also said he is excited about Cook's pledge to release new products this year that will expand Apple's line-up beyond smartphones, tablets and personal computers.

Apple's stock gained \$9.46, or nearly 2 percent, to \$529.14 in afternoon trading. The stock remains about 25 percent below its peak reached in September 2012. Investors are fretting about Apple's slowing growth amid tougher competition in the mobile device market.

Icahn is ending his crusade after months of railing against Apple's eight-member board in television interviews and posts on his Twitter account.

The barbs didn't seem to be winning Icahn's many allies.

The California Public Employees' Retirement System, a major Apple shareholder, had already dismissed Icahn's proposal as unnecessary meddling and the influential shareholder advisory firm Institutional Shareholder Services weighed in Sunday with report recommending a vote against Icahn's idea. □



Private equity investor Carl Icahn speaks at the World Business Forum in New York. Icahn is retreating from his battle with Apple's board of directors, ending a high-profile campaign to pressure the iPhone maker into spending more money to buy back its own slumping stock.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

with Apple's board of directors, ending a high-profile campaign to pressure the iPhone maker into spending more money to buy back its own slumping stock.

The about-face outlined in an Icahn letter to Apple's shareholders figures to turn the company's Feb. 28 annual meeting into a more sedate affair.

Icahn had been trying to drum up support for a non-binding proposal urging Apple Inc. to spend at least \$50 billion buying back its shares during the fiscal year ending in September. The idea faced mounting opposition from other stockholders who supported the company's

authorized under a program unveiled last year as a way to funnel more cash to shareholders. That plan allows Apple to spend \$60 billion on its stock through December 2015. The company only had \$37 billion still left for stock purchases under that plan as it began the fiscal year.

That means the board would have had to expand the stock repurchase program to placate Icahn, an irascible billionaire who has a long history of pestering companies to embrace his ideas after buying large stakes in them. Icahn began buying Apple stock about six months ago and says he now owns more than \$3 billion worth

pertino, California company previously has said it remains committed to making sensible use of the nearly \$159 billion in cash that it held at the end of December.

In the past two weeks, Apple CEO Tim Cook said the company spent \$14 billion buying back stock after the shares fell by 8 percent

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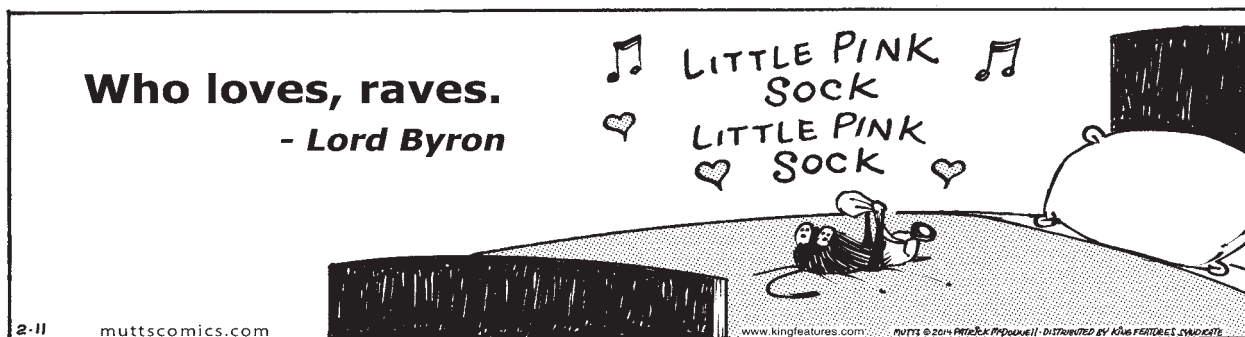
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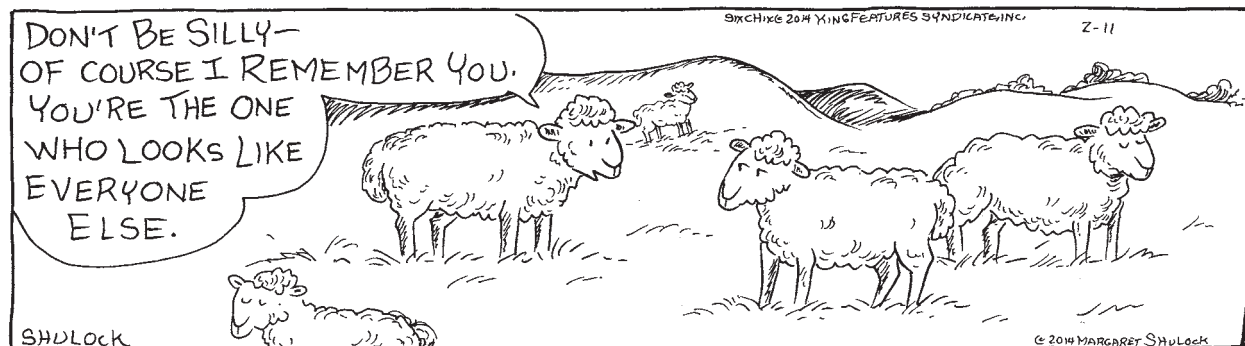
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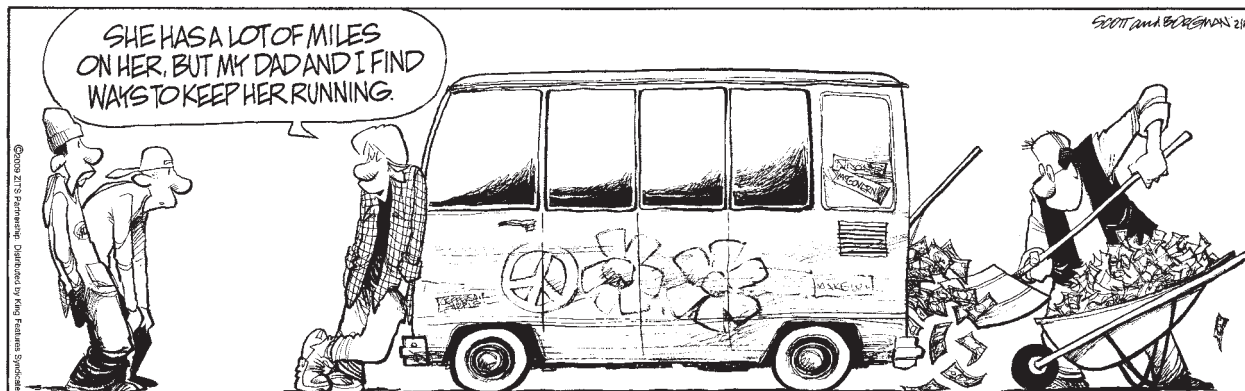
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			1	2			
6		5		7		2	1
	7					9	
1			5	6	7		2
3			2	8	4		7
	3					1	
9		2		4		3	6
			6		8		

Difficulty Level ★★

2/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

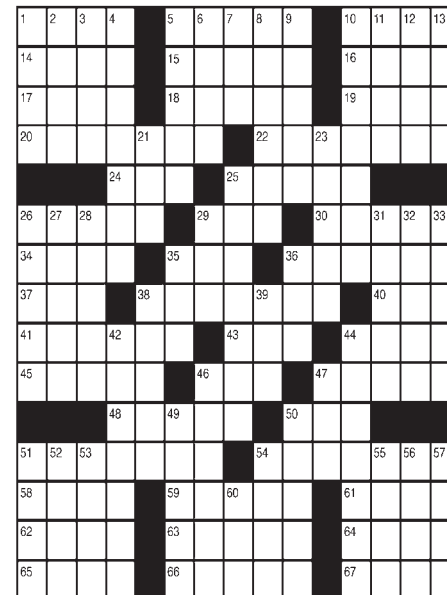
9	1	2	6	4	7	5	3	8
5	8	4	3	9	1	6	2	7
7	3	6	5	8	2	9	1	4
6	9	8	7	2	3	1	4	5
2	5	1	8	6	4	3	7	9
3	4	7	9	1	5	8	6	2
8	2	9	4	3	6	7	5	1
1	6	5	2	7	8	4	9	3
4	7	3	1	5	9	2	8	6

ACROSS

- 1 Wild feline
5 Scrub
10 Doing nothing
14 Sitting upon
15 On the __; free to the customer
16 Like expensive hamburger
17 Nag
18 Mexican Indian
19 Come to shore
20 Physical __; rehab activity
22 Loses the ball
24 Afternoon hour
25 One doing a civic duty
26 Meat sauce
29 Coolidge, to friends
30 Small ducks
34 Unclothed
35 Participated in a race
36 Interfere
37 Conjunction
38 Pathetic
40 God's sixth-day creation
41 Worked the soil
43 Actor Danson
44 Chauffeured car
45 Move furtively
46 Weep
47 Stringed instrument
48 Revolving part in a machine
50 Baby bear
51 Doctor in the operating room
54 Bad mark for a student
58 __ or false; type of test
59 Slugger Hank
61 Acting part
62 Grows gray
63 Daring feat
64 Competent
65 Take a break
66 Makes gentle
67 Not as much

DOWN

- 1 Treaty



Monday's Puzzle Solved

JIG	OMAHA	ARMS
ABOUT	CURES	LUAU
BILE	CLEAT	CITE
SPECULATE	ONES	
TOPS	ROT	
HOMELY	SHIFTING	
APART	WAIST	CUR
BENS	CAULK	TIDE
IRE	DIDNT	CONGA
TASMANIA	TARGET	
INN	SHAM	
HERD	ARCHENEMY	
AVID	MAORI	NOAH
WELL	ORDER	TALE
KNEE	NEEDS	NEW

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2/11/14

- 35 Get __ of; shed
36 Soft wet dirt
38 Tea variety
39 Jan.'s follower
42 Biggest
44 Broad-minded
46 Hyundai model
47 Total
49 Brownd bread
50 Pennies
51 Night twinkler
52 Egg on
53 Regrets
54 Finished
55 After-bath wear
56 Misfortunes
57 Palmer's pegs
60 Bacardi product

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Classifieds

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Room 752
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issues sale
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14 odd year \$1,950
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Jane Goodall, primatologist and frequent flyer

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Jane Goodall, who turns 80 this year, knows how to work a crowd.

In a packed auditorium, the elegant primatologist from Britain whooped like the chimpanzees she first studied in Tanzania in the early 1960s. She hugged an academic just like, she said, chimps do. She talked about her crush, as a "romantic little 10-year-old," on Tarzan, the fictional figure raised by apes.

"What did he do? He married the wrong Jane," Goodall lamented to laughter on Friday at the University of the Witwatersrand, whose officials wished her a happy birthday. Her birthday is actually April 3, and Goodall said she was perplexed by the hoopla.

Goodall, a protege of anthropologist Louis Leakey, documented the relationships and other behavioral patterns of chimpanzees, finding parallels with human conduct that spurred debate about evolution. Now she is an environmental activist, traveling 300 days a year to speak for those species, as one admirer put it, "who cannot



In this photo taken Wednesday April 25, 2012, chimpanzee expert Jane Goodall holds a monkey doll she carries with her wherever she travels, in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

speaking."

The woman who said she got "depressed" in the early days of research, when chimpanzees vanished into the forest at her approach, is also part of popular culture. The United Nations

designated her a peace messenger. Goodall's character has popped up in television parodies. A celebrated photograph shows a chimpanzee reaching out to her in a kind of "E.T." moment, reminiscent of the

finger touch between alien and child in the science-fiction movie.

"There's no really sharp line dividing us from the rest of the animal kingdom," Goodall said in an hour-long speech that was part autobiography, part save the planet. She acknowledged that chimpanzees don't gather in auditoriums, send robots to Mars and communicate with words. Creatures can be sneaky, though.

One of Goodall's favorite stories is about an aquarium where fish were disappearing after closing time. A camera was set up to get to the bottom of the mystery. It turned out that an octopus was walking across the floor to other fish tanks for a meal, then innocently returning to its own tank by morning.

Goodall's 22-page resume, posted on the website of the Virginia-based institute that carries her name, lists the many advisory boards she sits on, honorary degrees and awards (well over 100, including Dame of the British Empire and French Legion of Honor). She gives talks with a stuffed monkey propped on the podium. She has also traveled with a rock from the

prison island where Nelson Mandela, the South African anti-apartheid leader who died Dec. 5, toiled in a quarry for years.

She has planted trees in Singapore, voted on favorite artwork by chimpanzees (the winner used only his tongue), picked up \$1 million from Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen last year to study and protect gorillas in Africa and ridden in a carriage as grand marshal at the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. Next month, she'll view a migration of sandhill cranes in Nebraska.

A columnist in News24.com, an online news outlet in South Africa, was impressed, writing that the octogenarian "in a society terrified of aging, makes having reached this milestone seem, well, cool."

Last year, the release of Goodall's book about trees and plants, "Seeds of Hope," was postponed because some passages were lifted from online sources and not properly credited. She said in a statement that she agreed to delay the book and "correct any unintentional errors."

The publisher, Hachette Book Group, lists an April release date.

Bill Nye: Bible doesn't tell Earth's true history

By DYLAN LOVAN

Associated Press

PETERSBURG, Ky. (AP) —

True to his passionate and animated TV persona, "Science Guy" Bill Nye tapped on the podium, threw up his hands and noted that science shows the Earth is "billions and billions" of years old in a debate at a Kentucky museum known

for teaching that the planet's age is only 6,000.

Nye was debating Creation Museum founder Ken Ham and promoting science in the snappy way that made him a pop culture staple as host of "Bill Nye The Science Guy" in the 1990s.

The event was meant to explore the age old question,

"How did we get here?" from the perspectives of faith and science.

Ham, an Australian native who has built a thriving ministry in Kentucky, said he trusts the story of creation presented by the Bible.

"The Bible is the word of God," Ham said. "I admit that's where I start from."

Nye delivered a passionate speech on science and challenged the museum's teachings on the age of the earth and the Bible's flood story. Like most scientists, Nye believes there is no credible evidence that the world is only 6,000 years old.

"If we accept Mr. Ham's point of view ... that the Bible serves as a science text

and he and his followers will interpret that for you, I want you to consider what that means," Nye said. "It means that Mr. Ham's word

is to be more respected than what you can observe in nature, what you can find in your backyard in Kentucky."



TV's "Science Guy" Bill Nye stand speaks during a debate on evolution with Creation Museum head Ken Ham, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014, at the Petersburg, Ky. museum.

Associated Press

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In this Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014, file photo, American performer Bruce Springsteen sings during his live performance in Cape Town, South Africa. Associated Press

Springsteen announces 15 U.S. tour dates

NEW YORK (AP) — Bruce Springsteen is coming back to America. The music icon announced a new set of U.S. tour dates Monday after finishing recent treks in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Springsteen and the E Street Band will kick off the 15-date tour on April 8 in Cincinnati. His new tour will visit Nashville,

Tenn.; Atlanta; Tampa, Fla.; and Houston, among other cities. Tickets go on sale at various times this month, with the earliest date being Friday. The tour wraps May 18 after two consecutive nights at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Conn. Springsteen's latest album, "High Hopes," debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200 chart last month. □

U2, Timberlake, Obama to appear on new Fallon show



In this May 5, 2013 file photo, Justin Timberlake performs at the MasterCard Priceless Premieres concert in New York. Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jimmy Fallon is premiering his new show with a bang. NBC announced Monday that Will Smith will appear on the Feb. 17 debut of "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon." U2 will perform. Justin Timberlake will close out the week,

which will also include appearances by first lady Michelle Obama, Will Ferrell, Bradley Cooper, Kristen Wiig and Jerry Seinfeld. Lady Gaga, Arcade Fire and Tim McGraw will perform during the week. The first four episodes of Fallon's new show will air

at midnight following the Sochi Winter Olympics. Its regular time slot is 11:35 p.m. Eastern. Fallon replaces Jay Leno, who hosted "The Tonight Show" for 22 years. "Saturday Night Live" alum Seth Meyers is Fallon's successor; his "Late Night" show debuts Feb. 24. □

Study: Media everywhere, bathroom included

LOS ANGELES (AP) — TV viewers increasingly are watching programs on their own schedule, according to a Nielsen company media study released Monday. In the past year, time-shifting of television content grew by almost two hours, averaging 13 hours per month, the study found. Viewers averaged nearly 134 hours of live TV viewing a month in 2013, down nearly three hours from 2012. Television still remains central to media consumption, the study found, despite the increase in time-shifted viewing and streaming video through a computer or smartphone. On average, American consumers own four digital devices, the report found. The majority of U.S. households own high-definition TV sets, Internet-connected computers and smartphones, while nearly half also own digital video recorders and gaming consoles. The average consumer



This image released by AMC shows Bryan Cranston, as Walter White, in the final scene from "Breaking Bad." Associated Press

spends about 60 hours a week viewing content across various platforms, Nielsen found. Multitasking is common; 84 percent of smartphone and tablet owners say they use their devices as second screens while watching TV. "It's an incredibly exciting

evolution in the ways people are using devices to get media," said Megan Clarken, Nielsen executive vice president. While sports events generated the most Twitter postings last year, more than 400 million, TV series also had impressive numbers.

The top three: "Breaking Bad" with 6 million tweets, "The Walking Dead" with 4.9 million and "American Horror Story: Coven" with 2.9 million. An offbeat survey finding: 40 percent of adults between the ages of 18 and 24 use social media in the bathroom. □

Fred Armisen to lead band on Meyers' 'Late Night'

NEW YORK (AP) — Seth Meyers says former comedy colleague Fred Armisen will lead the band when he takes over NBC's "Late Night." Meyers tweeted Monday that his former "Saturday Night Live" castmate will "curate and lead" the band and run it even while shooting his IFC comedy series "Portlandia." NBC confirms the news.

Armisen is best known as a comic performer from "Portlandia" and his decade at "SNL." But he began show business as a drummer, principally for the punk-rock band Trenchmouth in the 1990s. He will handle vocals and guitar for "Late Night's" 8G Band. Other players include Seth Jabour on guitar, Syd Butler on bass, Eli Janney on keyboards and Kimberly Thompson on drums. "Late Night with Seth Meyers" premieres Feb. 24. "Portlandia" returns for its fourth season three days later. □

New Yorker's Remnick: NBC's political translator

By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP Television Writer

His experiment in television with NBC over for now, David Remnick leaves Sochi on Tuesday to resume his day job as editor of The New Yorker magazine.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire" participated in some studio discussions with host Bob Costas about some of the political issues surrounding the Olympics, including the threat of terrorism and Russia's law barring gay "propaganda."

Most effectively, he joined "Today" show hosts Matt Lauer and Meredith Vieira to provide historical context about the messages the host country was trying to convey Friday during the opening ceremony.

"I know there was focus to some degree on the one (Olympic) ring that didn't open," he said in an interview. "Thematically, from what I understand, what Russia and (President Vladimir) Putin wanted out of this was to show a developing, modern country capable of putting on as good a show as Sydney or England or the rest. Politics aside, that's another set of

issues, I think they did."

It was clear, too, the Russians wanted to "bobsled past the events that are very dark," Remnick said. So while the presentation depicted industrializa-

the question of what is usable in the past and what is not and what is being skipped over - without beating the viewer over the head about it - was, I thought, important to

and 1991 and the assignment hasn't left him. He's returned to Russia several times for New Yorker pieces, and is reporting during his current trip.

He said he enjoyed work-

producer of NBC's Olympics coverage, said he was thrilled by Remnick's contributions.

"We hired David because this is a complex part of the world and there's a lot of history to understand," Bell said. "He made us smarter and made the audience smarter."

It's a complex area for NBC to navigate, too. The network received some online criticism for a piece about Russia narrated by actor Peter Dinklage that was aired before the opening ceremony. In the piece, Dinklage referred to Russia's communist revolution as "one of modern history's pivotal experiments."

The decision not to make a value judgment on the United States' Cold War enemy struck some viewers, including Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, as wrong. Rubio tweeted the introduction seemed to be written by Putin. "Pivotal experiment?" he tweeted. "Really, no, it was an evil empire that murdered and oppressed."

Remnick said he did not participate in the piece and had no comment about the criticism. □



This June 3, 2013 file photo shows Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and Princeton alumnus David Remnick giving the keynote address during Princeton's Class Day ceremonies in Princeton, N.J.

tion that took place in the early Soviet era, Remnick was able to talk about the heavy price many Russians paid.

"The debate over history,

point out," he said. "I hope not to have been heavy-handed."

Remnick was the Moscow bureau chief at The Washington Post between 1988

ing with NBC, but doesn't expect it to be a regular gig. The next summer Olympics is in Brazil, not one of his areas of expertise. Jim Bell, executive



British poet Lavinia Greenlaw, center, who is chairing the judging panel of the Folio book prize, accompanied by Andrew Kidd, left, founder of the Folio Prize and Toby Hartwell, right, Managing Director of the Folio Society, pose for photographers during a photo call following a news conference, in central London, Monday, Feb. 10, 2014.

Associated Press

JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A new literary prize created to find the best book published in Britain has a strong North

American accent.

The 40,000 pound (\$66,000) Folio Prize is open to any work of fiction published in the United Kingdom in 2013.

UK's new Folio book prize has American accent

The eight finalists, announced Monday, include five books by U.S. writers: "Schroder" by Amity Gaige; "Benediction" by Kent Haruf; "The Flamethrowers" by Rachel Kushner; "A Naked Singularity" by Sergio De La Pava; and "Tenth of December" by George Saunders.

There is also Canadian Anne Carson's "Red Doc" and two books by Britain-based writers — Jane Gardam's "Last Friends," and Eimear McBride's "A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing."

British poet Lavinia Greenlaw, who is chairing the judging panel, said the American emphasis was a coincidence.

"We forgot about the authors and focused on the books," she said.

There are few big-name authors on a list that ranges from debut novelist De La Pava — a public defender in New York — to 85-year-old Gardam, and includes Saunders' volume of short stories and Carson's long-form poem. Greenlaw said that what the books had in common was risk-taking authors "doing things that should fail and pulling them off." The contest is in its first year and hopes to rival the Booker Prize as the English-speaking world's most prestigious literary award. But it has been

criticized by some in the U.K. literary world who feel British authors will be overlooked.

Those concerns have grown since the Booker, previously confined to British, Irish and Commonwealth writers, announced that it will be open to all nationalities starting this year.

But Folio Prize founder Andrew Kidd said: "It seemed perverse that we would have launched a prize in 2013 which was other than borderless, in an increasingly borderless world."

The winner will be announced March 10 in London. □

Health, Work, Lies



PAUL KRUGMAN

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On Wednesday, Douglas Elmendorf, the director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, said the obvious: losing your job and choosing to work less aren't the same thing. If you lose your job, you suffer immense personal and financial hardship. If, on the other hand, you choose to work less and spend more time with your family, "we don't sympathize. We say congratulations."

And now you know everything you need to know about the latest falsehood in the ever-mendacious campaign against health reform.

Let's back up. On Tuesday, the budget office released a report on the fiscal and economic outlook that included two appendices devoted to effects of the Affordable Care Act.

The first appendix attracted almost no attention from the news media, yet it was actually a bombshell. Much public discussion of health reform is still colored by Obamacare's terrible start and presumes that the program remains a disaster. Some of us have pointed out that things have been going much better lately - but now it's more or less official. The budget office predicts that first-year sign-ups in the health exchanges will fall only modestly short of expectations and that nearly as many uninsured Americans will gain insurance as it predicted last spring. This good news got drowned out, however, by false claims about the meaning of the second health care appendix, on labor supply.

It has always been clear that health reform will induce some Americans to work less. Some people will, for example, retire earlier because they no longer need to keep working to keep their health insurance. Others will reduce their hours to spend more time with their children because insurance is no longer contingent on holding a full-time job. More subtly, the incentive to work will be somewhat reduced by health insurance subsidies that fall as your income rises.

The budget office has now increased its estimate of the size of these effects. It believes that health reform will reduce the number of hours worked in the economy by between 1.5 percent and 2 percent, which it unhelpfully noted "represents a decline in the number of full-time-equivalent workers of about 2.0 million."

Why was this unhelpful? Because politicians and, I'm sorry to say, all too many news organizations immediately seized on the 2 million number and utterly misrepresented its meaning. For example, Rep. Eric Cantor, the House majority leader, quickly posted this on his Twitter account: "Under Obamacare, millions of hard-working Americans will lose their jobs and those who keep them will see their hours and wages reduced."

Not a word of this claim was true. The budget office report didn't say that people will lose their jobs. It declared explicitly that the predicted fall in hours worked will come "almost entirely because workers will choose to supply less labor" (emphasis added). And as we've already seen, Elmendorf did his best the next day to explain that voluntary reductions in work hours are nothing like involuntary job loss. Oh, and because labor supply will be reduced, wages will go up, not down.

We should add that the budget office believes that health reform will actually reduce unemployment over the next few years.

Just to be clear, the predicted long-run fall in working hours isn't entirely a good thing. Workers who choose to spend more time with their families will gain, but they'll also impose some burden on the rest of society, for example, by paying less in payroll and income taxes. So there is some cost to Obamacare over and above the insurance subsidies. Any attempt to do the math, however, suggests that we're talking about fairly minor costs, not the "devastating effects" Cantor asserted in his next post on Twitter.

So was Cantor being dishonest? Or was he just ignorant of the policy basics and unwilling to actually read the report before trumpeting his misrepresentation of what it said? It doesn't matter - because even if it was ignorance, it was willful ignorance. Remember, the campaign against health reform has, at every stage, grabbed hold of any and every argument it could find against insuring the uninsured, with truth and logic never entering into the matter.

Think about it. We had the nonexistent death panels. We had false claims that the Affordable Care Act will cause the deficit to balloon. We had supposed horror stories about ordinary Americans facing huge rate increases, stories that collapsed under scrutiny. And now we have a fairly innocuous technical estimate misrepresented as a tale of massive economic damage.

Meanwhile, the reality is that American health reform - flawed and incomplete though it is - is making steady progress. No, millions of Americans won't lose their jobs, but tens of millions will gain the security of knowing that they can get and afford the health care they need. □



Boehner On Fantasy Island



GAIL COLLINS

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House Speaker John Boehner has his good moments. For instance, I always enjoy it when he brushes off a question by saying: "If ands and buts were candy and nuts, every day would be Christmas." Also, there was the time he dressed down one of his members, Steve King of Iowa, for describing Dreamers - young people who were illegally brought into the country when they were children - as a generation of drug mules. ("...and they've got calves the size of cantaloupes because they're hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the desert.") Plus, Rep. Joaquin Castro of Texas says that when he thanked Boehner for standing up to King, Boehner responded, "What an ass." I'm editing, but you get the idea.

So, a lot to appreciate when it comes to Boehner on the subject of the great melting pot. Until Thursday, when the speaker pretty much tossed the idea of immigration reform over a railing. This was a metaphorical railing and not the one that the congressman from Staten Island threatened to throw a reporter over. But it's sad. The immigration bill that was passed by the Senate last year would have done a lot of good, both in giving millions of undocumented residents

a better life and in rationalizing the way we decide who gets to come here legally and who doesn't.

For a while it looked as if the House was going to pass a modest version of the same. But that was long ago. Back, um, last week. That was when the Republicans came up with a series of principles for reform during a group retreat. Principles that, Boehner said, "our members by and large support, put together by the leadership team. And they believe it."

He made that last comment Thursday, about three seconds before he announced that nothing was going to happen.

Pop Quiz. Complete the following sentence: John Boehner dropped the plan to pass immigration reform in 2014 and blamed his sudden, abrupt, U-turn on:

- A) The people who closed down the George Washington Bridge without Gov. Chris Christie ever knowing a single thing about it.
- B) Russian oligarchs.
- C) Justin Bieber.
- D) President Barack Obama.

Yes! Everybody got this one right! John Boehner says the House Republicans won't pass the plan they came up with last week because Obama ruined everything. "Listen, there's widespread doubt about whether this administration can be trusted to enforce our laws," he told a press conference. "And it's going to be difficult to move any immigration legislation to move that changes."

Let us consider the Obama administration's record on enforcing immigration laws. Under this president, half of all federal crime prosecution involves immigration crime. The government now spends more on enforcing immigration laws than it spends on the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, Secret Service, U.S. Marshals Service and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives combined.

We have more than 650 miles

of fencing along the Mexican border. Plus, don't forget all the drones. And 21,391 border patrol agents. Given the plummeting numbers of people actually trying to illegally cross into the country, let us hope that a lot of those agents are good at meditation.

A sizable chunk of Obama's own base is furious over the all-time high rate of deportations - nearly 2 million so far in his tenure and way ahead of the record of George W. Bush. The government now automatically goes through the fingerprints of people who are arrested and sifts out the ones who are here illegally.

Immigrant advocates say the system breaks up families and viciously punishes people who may be guilty of nothing more than a minor traffic violation. The administration says it's all about targeting the real criminals. This is an argument we need to continue, but, however it turns out, the answer is not going to be that Barack Obama refused to enforce the immigration laws.

So what do you think Boehner's real motive is for dropping immigration reform? Do you think his members are worried that if illegal immigrants get a path to citizenship, they'll use their franchise to vote Democratic? ("GOP Crafts Plan to Wreck the Country, Lose Voters," said the headline in a blog from the ever-popular Ann Coulter.)

Maybe the House is just short of time. There's a post office somewhere that needs renaming, and Obamacare to repeal.

"Well, we got a lot of things on our plate," Boehner said. He mentioned fixing Medicare payments for doctors and flood insurance. That's one heck of an agenda, but maybe they could fit in just a little more by expanding their 2014 schedule beyond the current 97 more working days.

Too hypothetical. Press Boehner on that one and he'll feel obliged to tell you about candy and nuts again. □



At Halfpipe, Warm Temperatures and Grumbling Olympians

Crews reshape the snowboarding halfpipe at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia, Feb. 10, 2014. On Monday, coaches said that the pipe was not cut properly, with bumpy and asymmetrical snow in the transition area slowing riders.

(Bedel Saget/The New York Times)

BEDEL SAGET
JOHN BRANCH

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KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia - The condition of the Olympic halfpipe was widely criticized Monday, the last day of training before the high-profile competitions Tuesday and Wednesday. Some even suggested that the contests be postponed for a day or two, until conditions improved.

"This is going to be showcased to billions of people, and we want the best representation of halfpipe snowboarding," said Hannah Teter of the United States, the gold medalist in 2006 and silver medalist in 2010. "And as of now it is not to the caliber it should be."

The problems, ranging from the curvature of the walls to the condition of the snow, forced the cancellation of a morning practice. In the evening session, under the bright lights at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park and 24 hours

before the men's finals, many of the world's best riders struggled to complete a run without falling. The biggest issue was the flat bottom between the 22-foot walls, as bumpy as a washboard and filled with loose, sugary snow. Many of the spills came unexpectedly after riders completed difficult tricks, only to lose their balance on their way toward the opposite wall, as if tripped by an invisible obstacle. For those able to keep their balance, maintaining speed proved difficult, lowering the elevation of their tricks.

The conditions forced some athletes to reconsider their routines, lowering the wow factor that the halfpipe typically provides. Many compared the halfpipe to the one used for the 2010 Vancouver Games, which was similarly criticized in the days before the competition. Conditions, then and now, slowly improved.

"This pipe is a lot steeper,

and I believe it's a bit longer," said Kelly Clark, the 2002 gold medalist and favorite to win the women's competition on Wednesday. "And that makes it easier, because if you do have stuff go wrong in the middle of your run, you're able to get your speed back. I actually prefer this one."

Clark's positive outlook contrasted with the frustration of Teter. But most athletes eased their criticism between Sunday and Monday, including Danny Davis.

"I should toughen up and quit whining so much," said Davis, heeding the advice given to him by Nate Holland, a veteran of the snowboard cross team. "I just need to ride. We're all riding the same halfpipe. It's a shame it's not perfect."

Davis said that some riders struggled more than others. Those who seemed to have easier times included Shaun White, the prohibitive favor-

ite, looking for his third consecutive gold medal, and Japan's Ayumu Hirano, a diminutive 15-year-old.

"Shaun's pretty good in these conditions," Davis said. "Ayumu's been riding really good. I think he's so light he floats on top of all the bumps."

The one-day men's halfpipe competition is scheduled to begin with qualifications Tuesday afternoon. The semifinals and finals will follow after dark. The women follow a similar schedule Wednesday.

Pipe conditions can change immensely from one day to the next, depending on care and factors such as weather. The forecast called for the possibility of light rain or snow, followed by partly cloudy skies Tuesday. Temperatures in the mid-30s are expected during the day, dipping to freezing by the time of the finals.

Crews worked throughout Monday carving the walls and reshaping the transi-

tion. At one point, the workers on skis climbed onto the rising slope of the pipe and poked at the walls with rakes. An Australian coach shouted at them to stop because they were damaging the pipe with their tools and their skis.

By the start of the nighttime practice, conditions had improved. By the end, after nearly two hours of mostly clumsy riding and frustrated potential, riders seemed to fall into two camps - those still annoyed by the pipe and those moving forward, like Clark, for example.

"Today's the best the pipe's been," she said. "I had a really great practice."

Mike Jankowski, the U.S. coach, also took the optimistic approach.

"This is nothing new," he said. "This is a mountain sport, it's an outdoor sport, and we deal with the conditions week in and week out. And whoever deals with the conditions the best is going to win a gold medal." □